poison candy

The SKAR virus has infected a handful of adolescents worldwide, giving them superhuman, telekinetic powers along with a death sentence. When the government and the private sector both set out to find a cure for the deadly illness, their humanitarian effort belies an arms race that could set up a whole new balance of power. Enter the young Sam Chance, who finds himself SKAR-positive. The imminent end of his life just might be the beginning of an entirely different world...

From comic vet David Hine (*X-Men*, *District X*, *Spawn: The Armageddon Collection*) and global manga artist Hans Steinbach (*A Midnight Opera*) comes an unflinching look into a future that's closer than we all would like to admit.

poison candy 毒飴 ™

THE MANGA REVOLUTION · LEADING · 漫画革命 · THE MANGA REVOLUTION · LEADING

EMPIRE

ACTION

OT OLDER TEEN AGE 16+

TOKYOPOP AGE RATING

MAY INCLUDE
MODERATE SEXUALITY
MODERATE VIOLENCE

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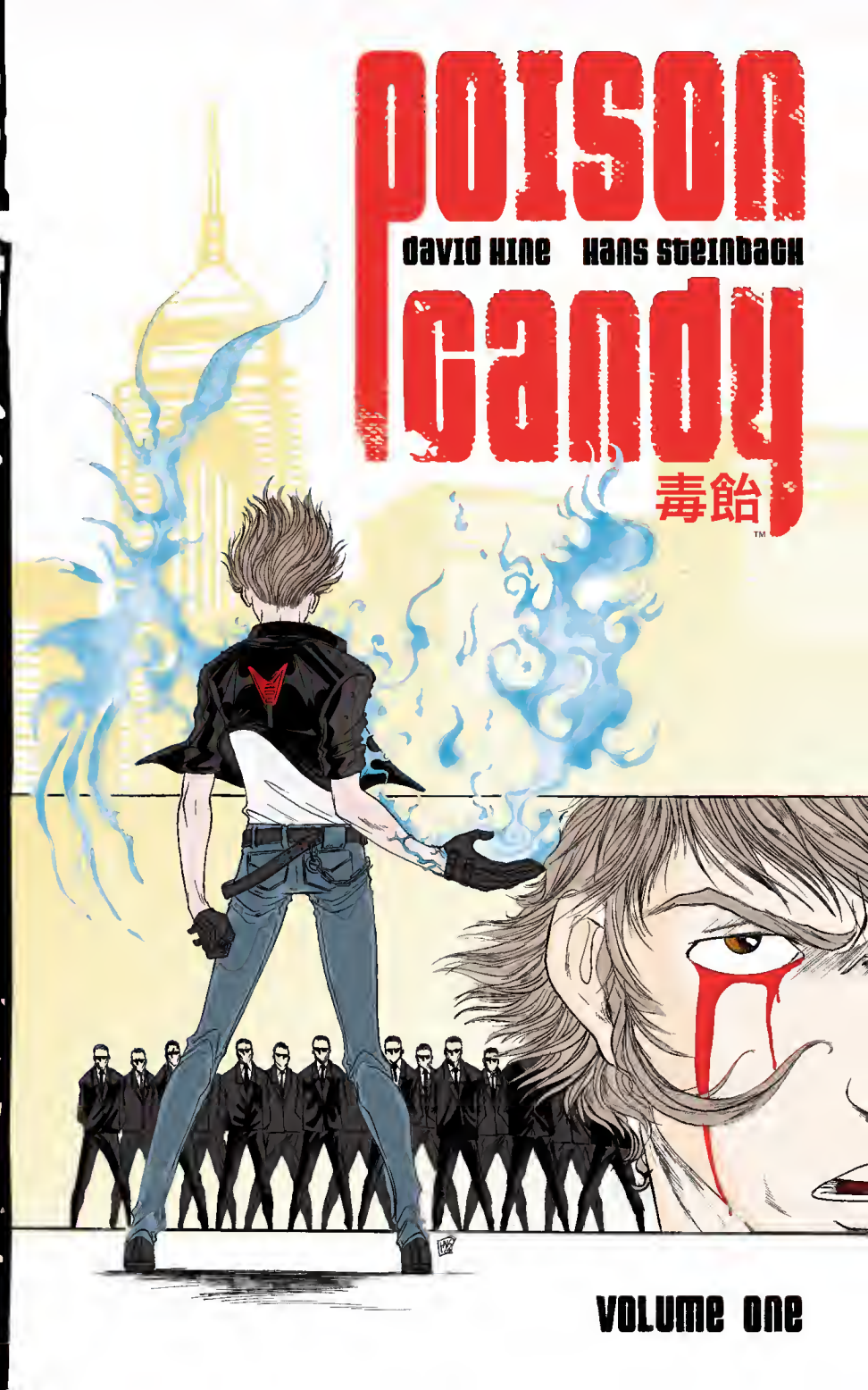

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DAVID HINE HANS STEINBACH

VOLUME ONE

Poison Candy Vol. 1
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ISBN: 978-1-4278-0080-0

First TOKYOPOP printing: September 2007
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in the USA

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Created and Written by David Hine
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HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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PLEASE...
HMM?
WHAT IS IT, SUZI?
I'D LIKE TO GO HOME NOW.
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
NOW I JUST NEED TO TAKE ONE LAST BLOOD SAMPLE.
NO MORE NEEDLES!
SUZI, YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN.

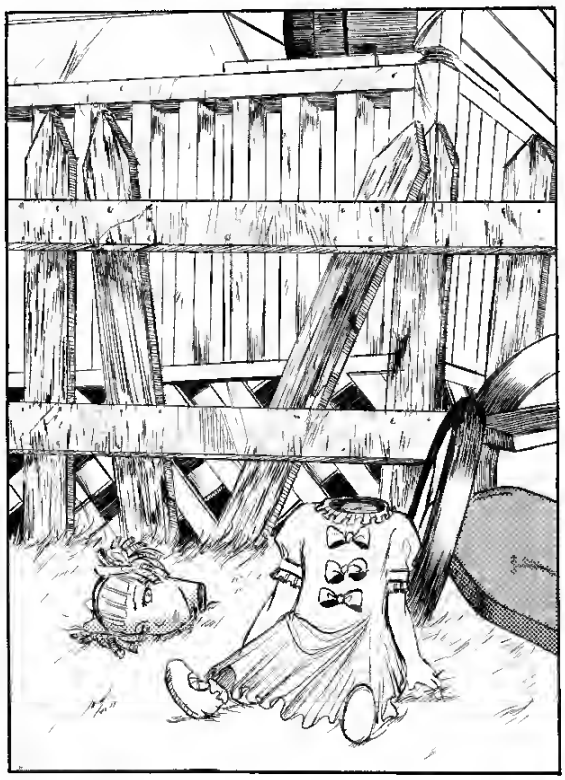
I WANT TO GO HOME!
LIKE NOW!
BEN! COULD YOU OPEN THE DOOR?
BEN? DOCTOR GUJRAL? COME ON, GUYS. I'M SERIOUS.
OPEN THE GDDDAMN DDDR!
SHOULD I OPEN UP?
TOO RISKY. THE SUBJECT IS TOO UNSTABLE.

SUZI, PLEASE DON'T DO THIS.
I-- WANT--
TO-- GO--
HOME!!!!

OH, SHIT! THAT HAD TO HAPPEN ON MY WATCH.
I GUESS YOU'D BETTER TELL CONTROL...

"...WE'VE LOST ANOTHER ONE."

CHAPTER 1: RAGING HORMONES



NEXT UP ON "LET'S TALK TURKEY"-- TRANSEXUAL BIKER DAD...

...THE STORY OF FORMER L.A. DEMONS GANG MEMBER RAMON VALDEZ, WHO FOUND THE COURAGE TO ADMIT THAT HE WAS BORN INTO THE WRONG BODY.
JOINING US NOW ARE RAMONA VALDEZ AND FAMILY TO TALK ABOUT HOW HER GENDER-MODIFYING SURGERY HAS AFFECTED RELATIONSHIPS IN THE FAMILY.
ROUTE 66
Hard Rock CAFE
SO, INEZ, TELL ME--HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE TWO MOMS?
KERRRAHNNNGG!!!
KA-CHANNNGG!!!
DAMMIT!

WAAAAA-EE EE!!!!!!
THERE THEY GO AGAIN! EVERY DAMN WEEKEND!
WE SHOULD CALL THE COPS.
YOU THINK THE COPS GIVE A CUSS? BY THE TIME THEY HAUL THEIR BUTTS OUT HERE, IT'LL BE OVER.
I'LL SHOW THOSE PUNKS SOME HEAVY METAL!

ROUTE 66
ONE OF THESE DAYS, I'M GONNA FETCH ROSEANNE DOWN OFF THE RACK...
...LOAD UP BOTH BARRELS WITH BIRD BOMBS AND TAKE ME A WALK OVER THERE...
...THEN I'M GONNA BLOW THEIR SASSY HEADS OFF ONE AT A TIME AND SPIT DOWN THEIR NECKS.
HERE COMES ANOTHER OF THE LITTLE FREAKS NOW.
JERRY SPRINGER

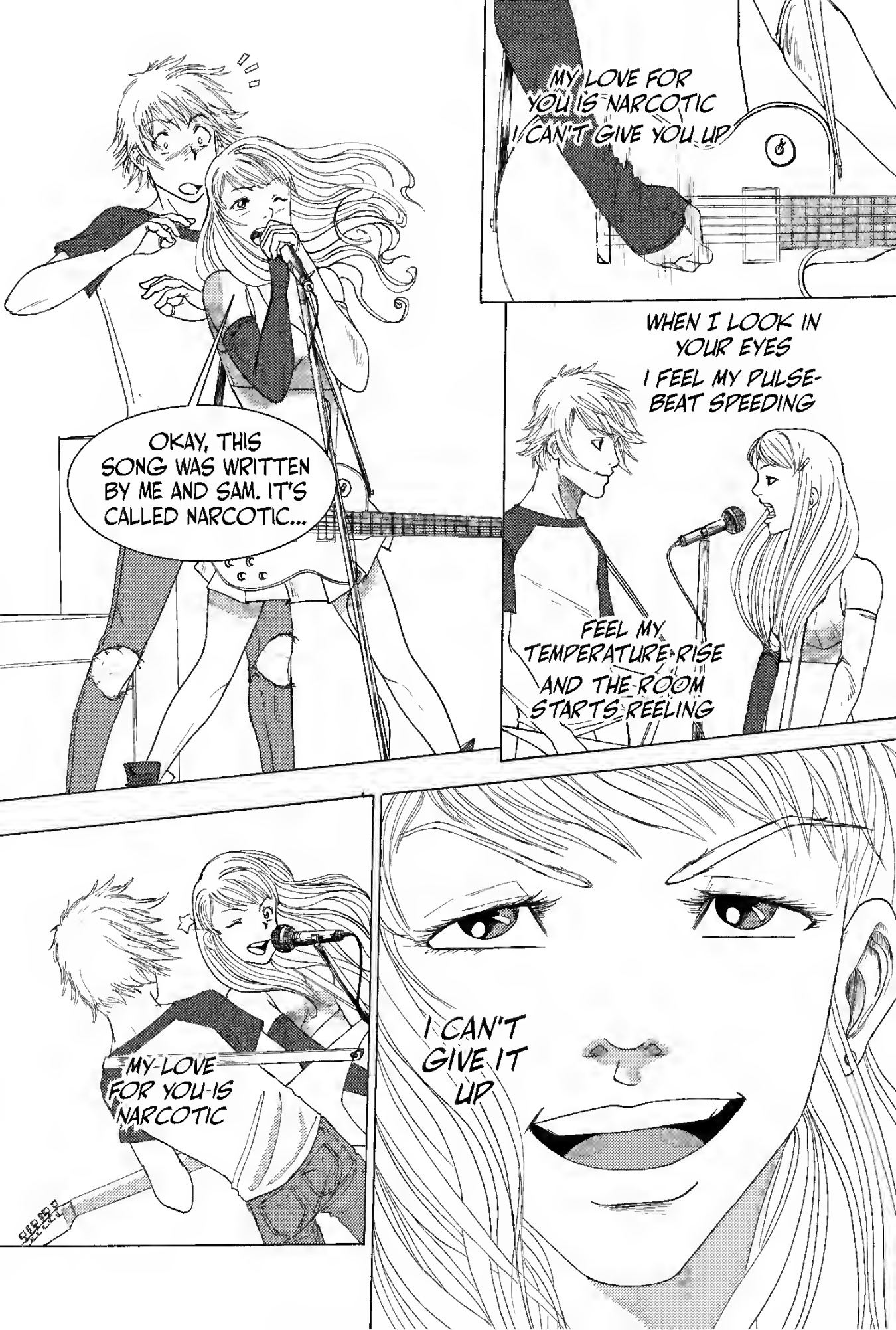
HI, MRS. SPRINGER! MR. SPRINGER!
HELLO THERE, YOUNG MAN!
Hard Rock
WAP!
UNN-N-G-G...
KERRRANNNGG!!
HEY, GUYS!

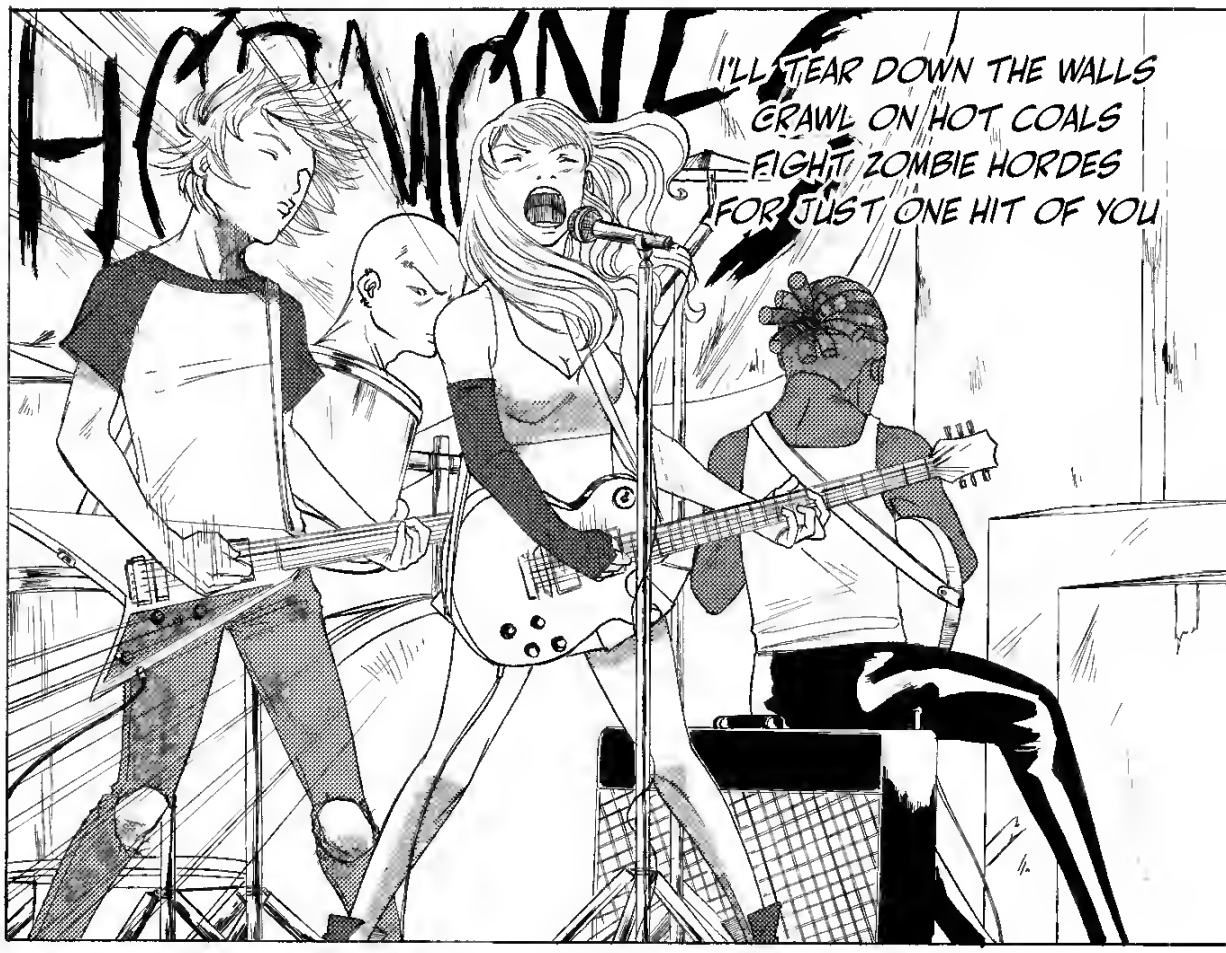
THE RAGING HORMONES
SAM'S STUFF
VOX
HEY, IT'S OUR NUMBER-ONE FAN. WHAT KEPT YOU, YUSUF? YOU NEARLY MISSED THE ACTION.

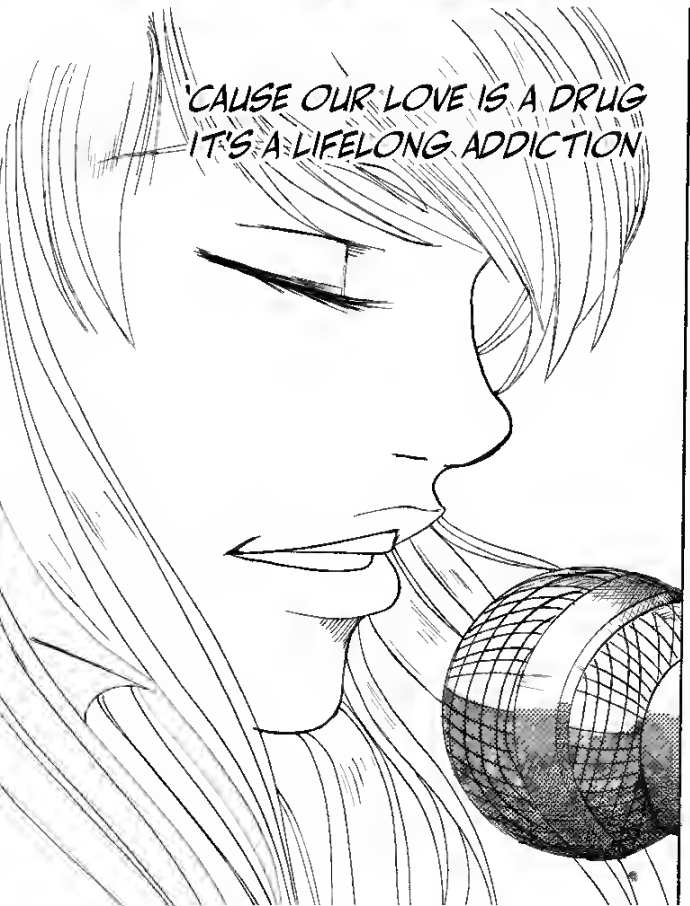
S-SORRY, SAM. I HAD CHORES.
NO SWEAT. WE JUST FINISHED WARMING UP.
WASSUP, DOG? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO UNLOAD IN YOUR UNDERWEAR.
CAST YOUR PEEPERS ON THIS!
Los Angeles
LOCAL SKAR DEAT
REACHES 120
THE SKAR VIRUS? THAT'S OLD NEWS, YUSUF. IT'S EITHER GONNA KILL YOU OR PASS YOU BY.
NOT THAT...
Times
EATHTOLL
...THIS!

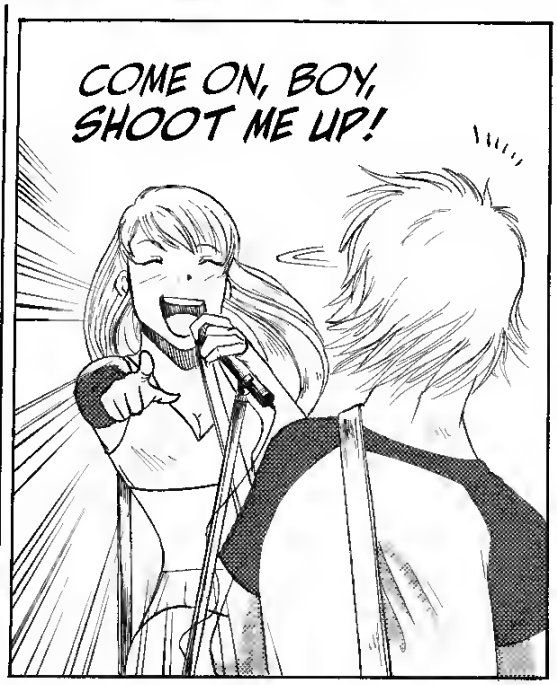
"HENRY RAVEN WILL MAKE A PERSONAL APPEARANCE AT THE FLAGSHIP ELEKTROACTIVE SUPERSTORE IN SANTA MONICA ON SATURDAY TO PROMOTE THE NEW GAMEBASE X-TREME."
THAT'S TODAY!
SO... THIS RAVEN... HE'S THE DUDE WHO OWNS ELEKTRO-ACTIVE?
RAVEN *IS* ELEKTROACTIVE. THE GUY'S A GENIUS! RIGHT AFTER YOU GUYS FINISH UP, I'M HEADING OVER THERE.
MAN, THIS IS GOING TO BE SO COOL. THE STORE HAS A HUNDRED OF THE TITANIUM LIMITED EDITION, AND ONE OF THOSE BABIES HAS MY NAME ON IT.
YEAH? HOW'S THAT?
I RESERVED IT A MONTH AGO. BOUGHT AND PAID FOR.

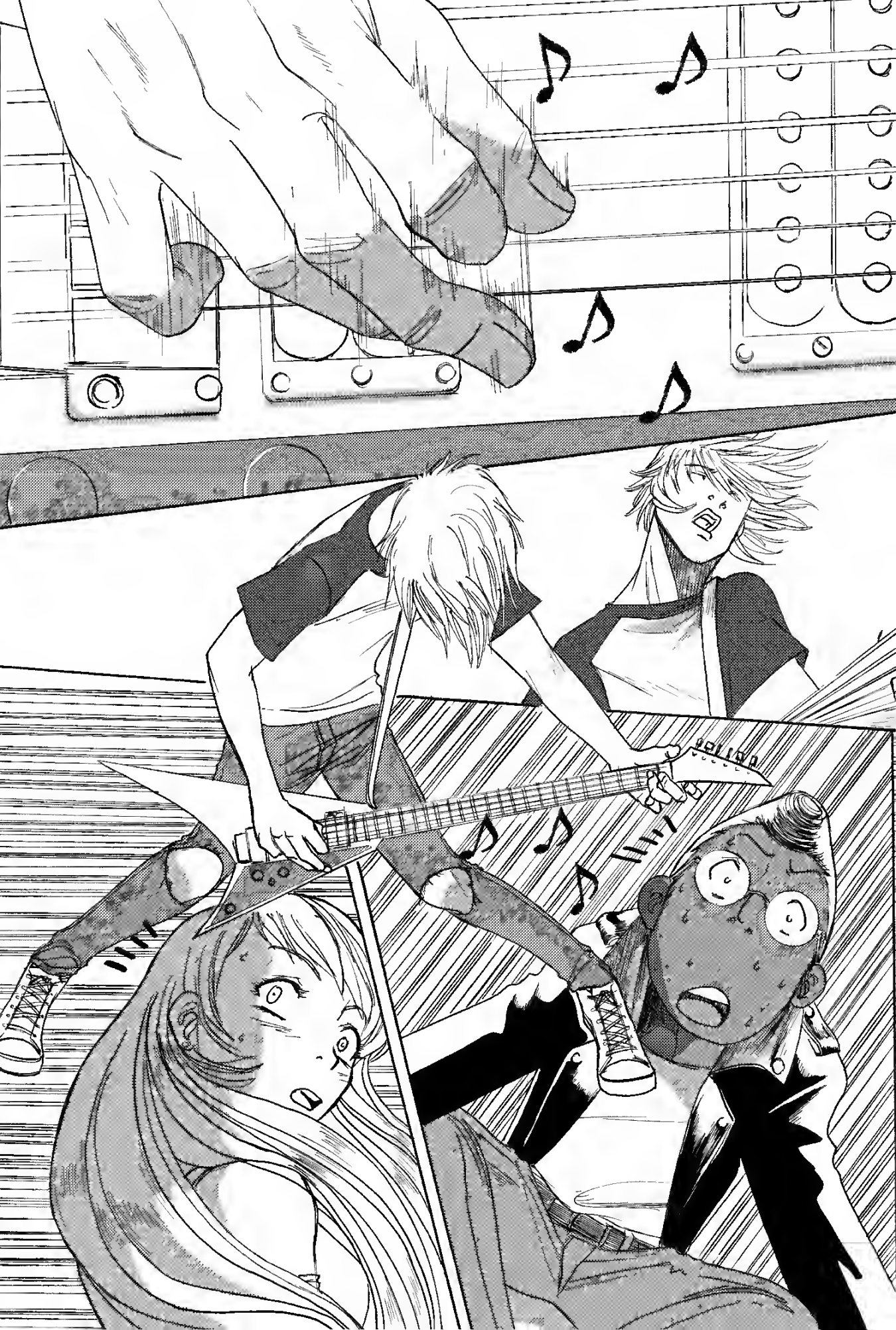
HOW DID YOU SWING THAT? I THOUGHT YOU WERE BROKE.
UH... I--
THE RAGING HORMONES
YUSUF, WE ARE ALL SINCERELY THRILLED FOR YOU, FOR HENRY RAVEN AND FOR THE ENTIRE COMPUTER-GAMES INDUSTRY. BUT WE ARE PLAYING OUR FIRST MAJOR GIG FOUR DAYS FROM NOW, SO...
OH, RIGHT. SORRY SAM.
YOU JUST PROCEED WITH THE CRAZY RIFFS AND MAKE LIKE I'M NOT EVEN HERE.
WE TRY, MAN. WE TRULY DO TRY...

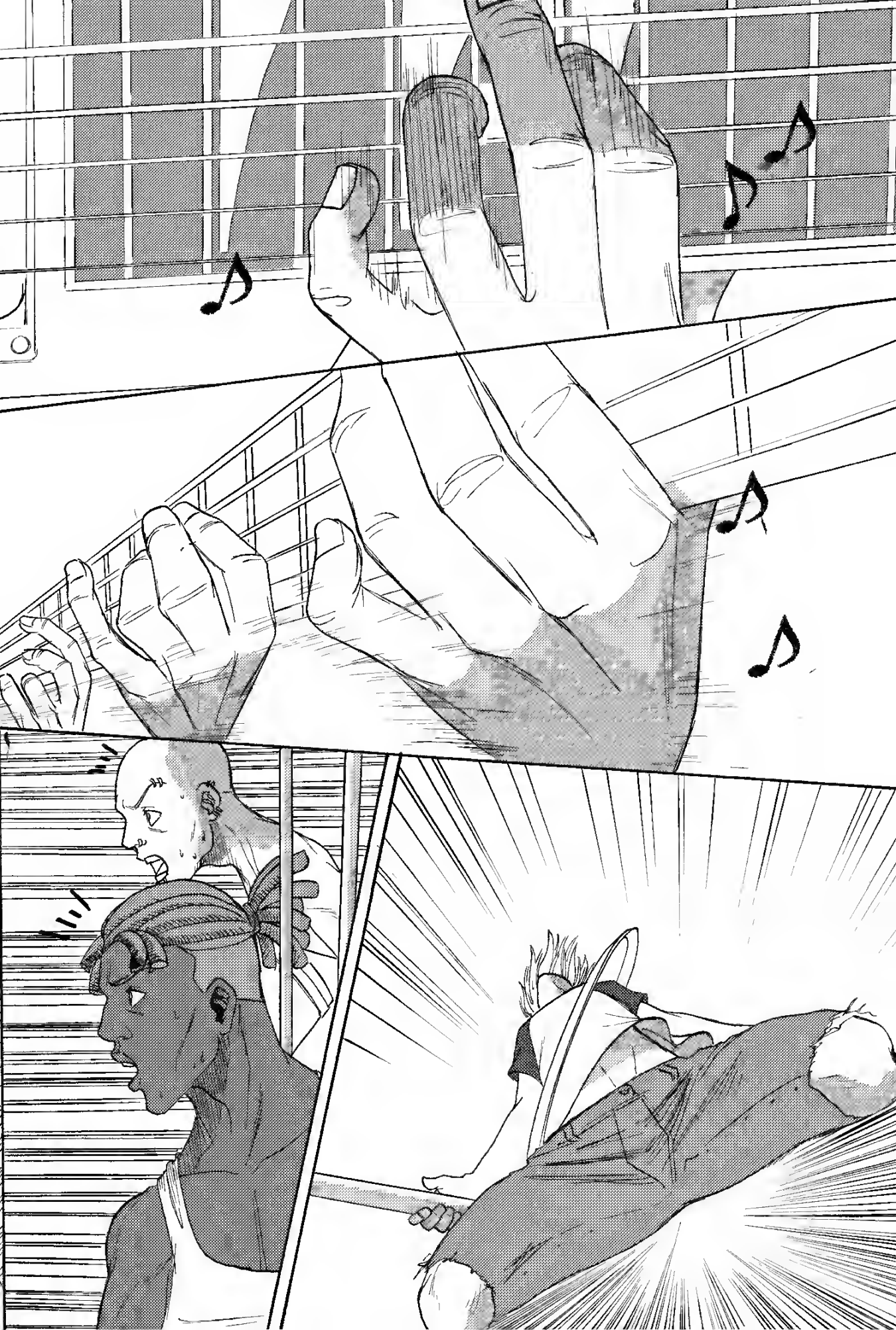

OKAY, THIS SONG WAS WRITTEN BY ME AND SAM. IT'S CALLED NARCOTIC...
MY LOVE FOR YOU IS NARCOTIC I CAN'T GIVE YOU UP
WHEN I LOOK IN YOUR EYES I FEEL MY PULSE-BEAT SPEEDING
FEEL MY TEMPERATURE RISE AND THE ROOM STARTS REELING
MY LOVE FOR YOU IS NARCOTIC
I CAN'T GIVE IT UP


I'LL TEAR DOWN THE WALLS
CRAWL ON HOT COALS
FIGHT ZOMBIE HORDES
FOR JUST ONE HIT OF YOU

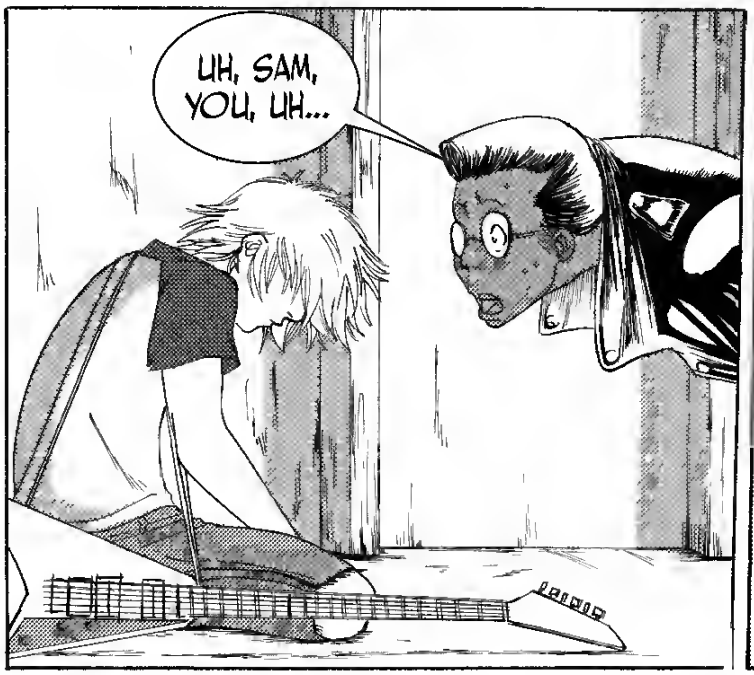

'CAUSE OUR LOVE IS A DRUG
IT'S A LIFELONG ADDICTION

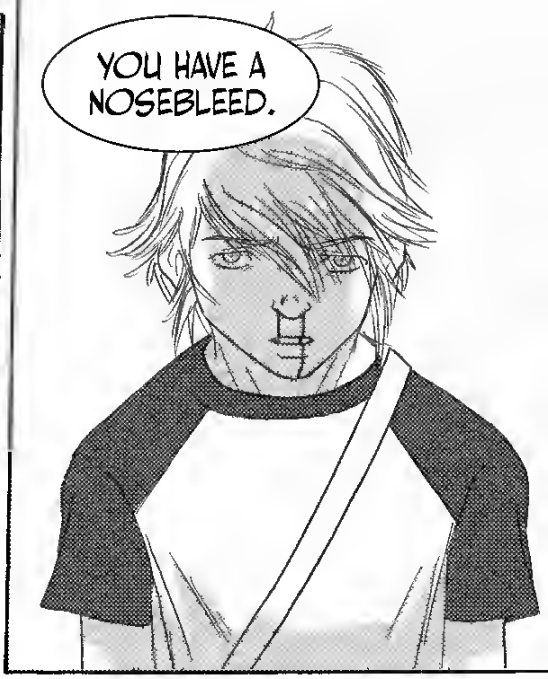

COME ON, BOY,
SHOOT ME UP!

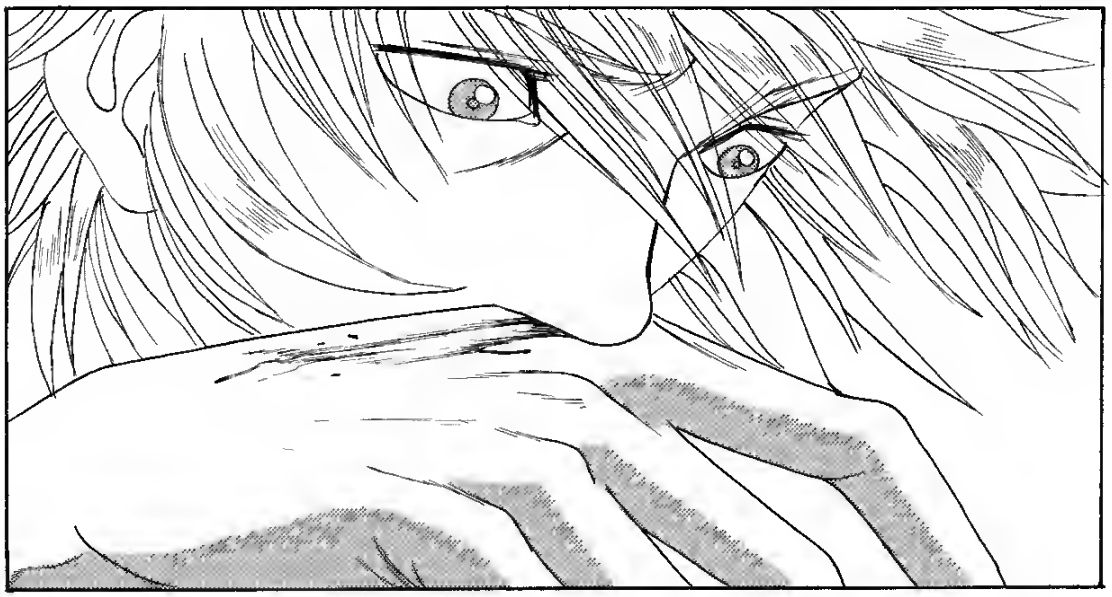


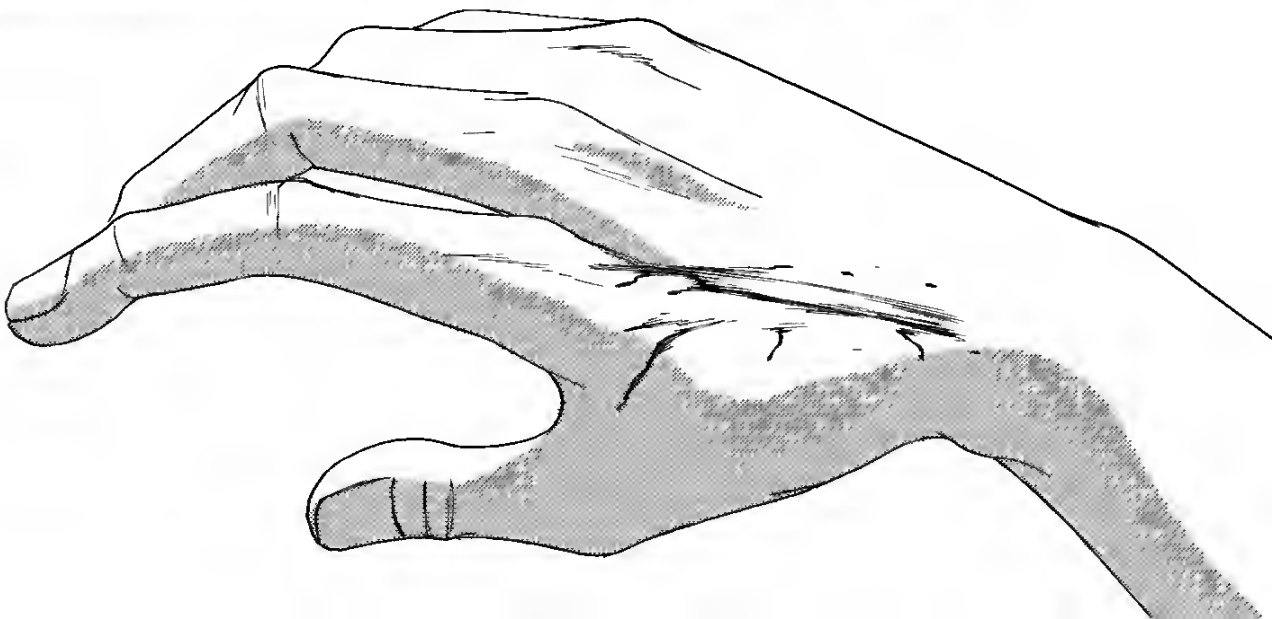


THAT WAS...
...BEAUTIFUL...
MAN, WHEN DID YOU GET THAT GOOD?
I DUNNO. I JUST...
I DUNNO.


UH, SAM, YOU, UH...


YOU HAVE A NOSEBLEED.





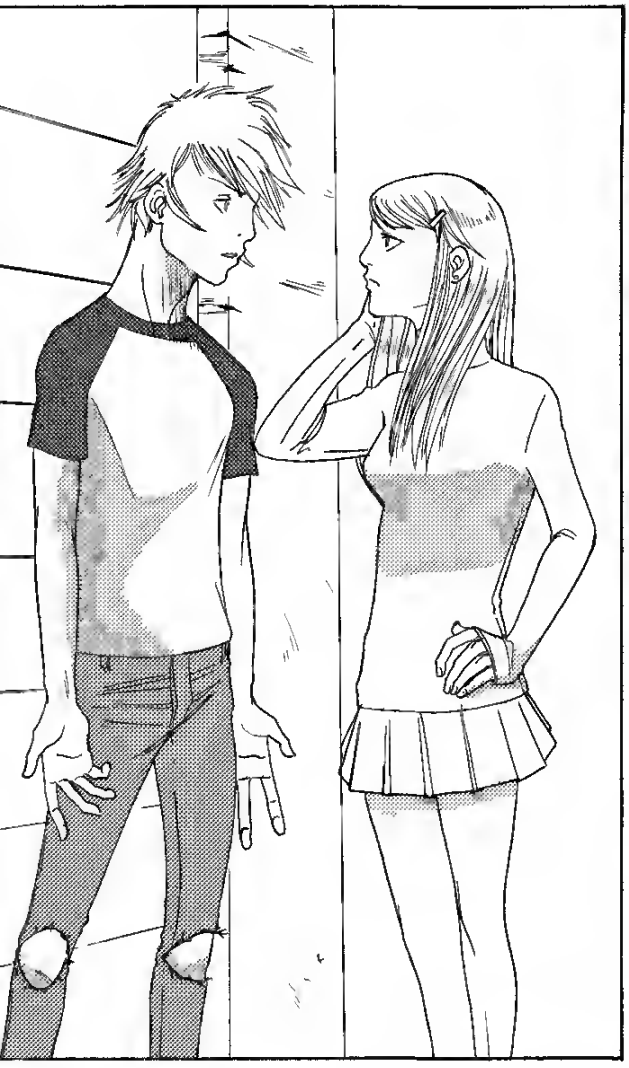
OKAY, GUYS. LAST PRACTICE MONDAY...

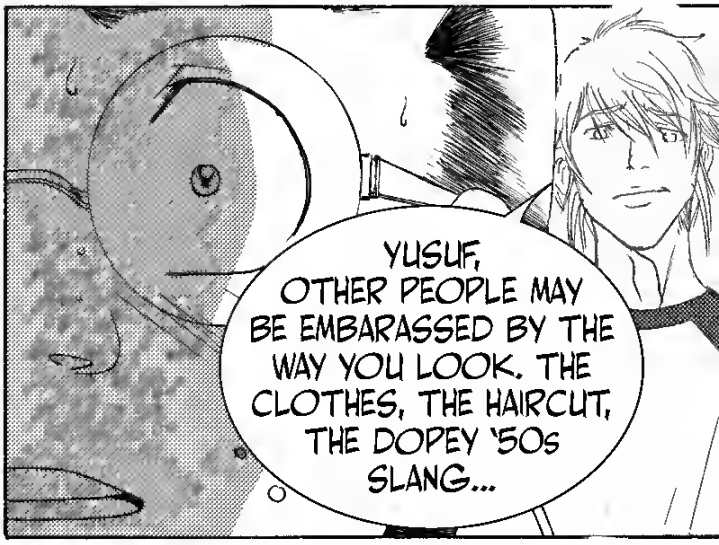
...AND SAM, CUT THE GUITAR SOLO, 'KAY? YOU MAKE THE REST OF US LOOK LIKE AMATEURS.

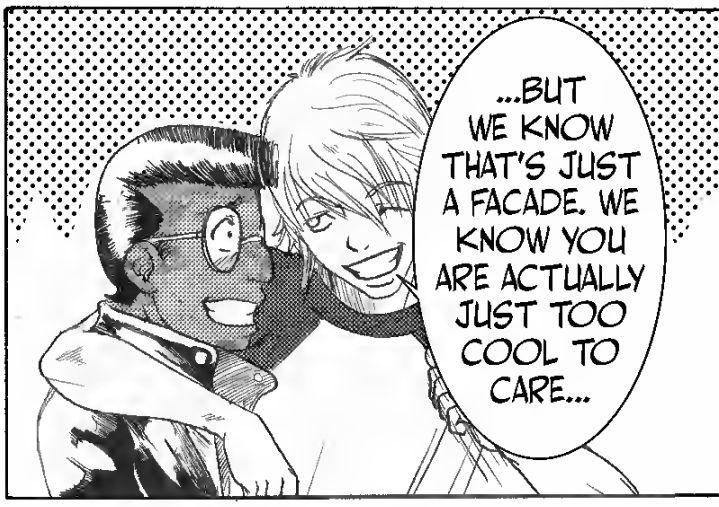
YEAH. WHAT HE SAID. THAT SELF-INDULGENT STUFF IS FOR THE STADIUM GIGS, Y'KNOW. WE GOTTA KEEP IT REAL.

ROUGH N' RAW, DUDE. ROUGH N' RAW.
HATE

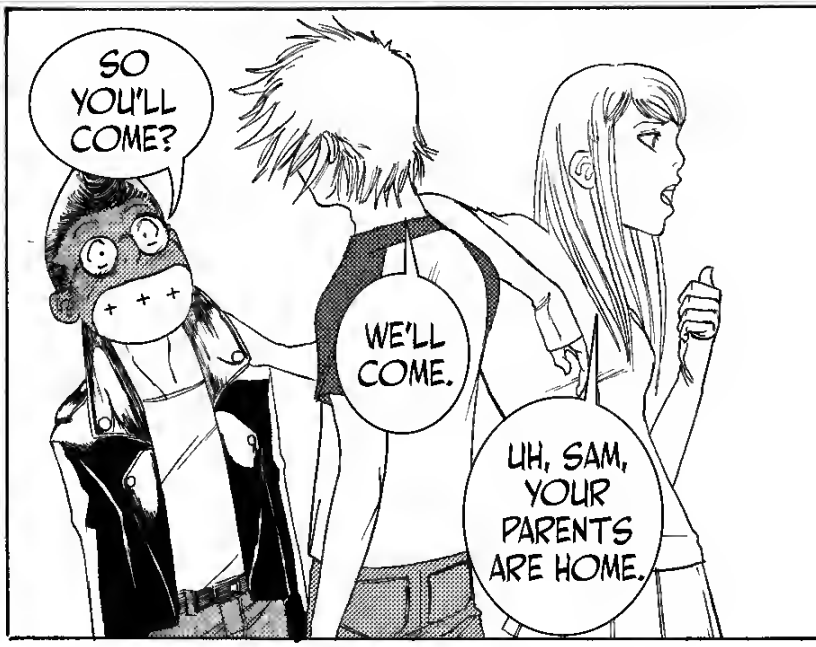
SO LISTEN, YOU CATS WANNA HEAD FOR THE MALL, PICK UP MY GAMEBASE AND CHECK OUT RAVEN?
WE WERE KINDA PLANNING TO GO TO DONNA'S TO, UH...
...WORK ON OUR LYRICS.
YEAH. RIGHT. THE LYRICS.
PUH-LEEZE...
I DON'T KNOW.
OH, MAN, YOUR LYRICS ARE PERFECT. YOU GOTTA COME TO THE MALL WITH ME...
AFTER WE COLLECT THE G-X, WE CAN GO TO MY PAD, GET LOADED ON MY OLD MAN'S BEER AND GIVE IT A TEST DRIVE.
OKAY, I GET IT. YOU GUYS DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN HANGING WITH THE CLASS NERD.

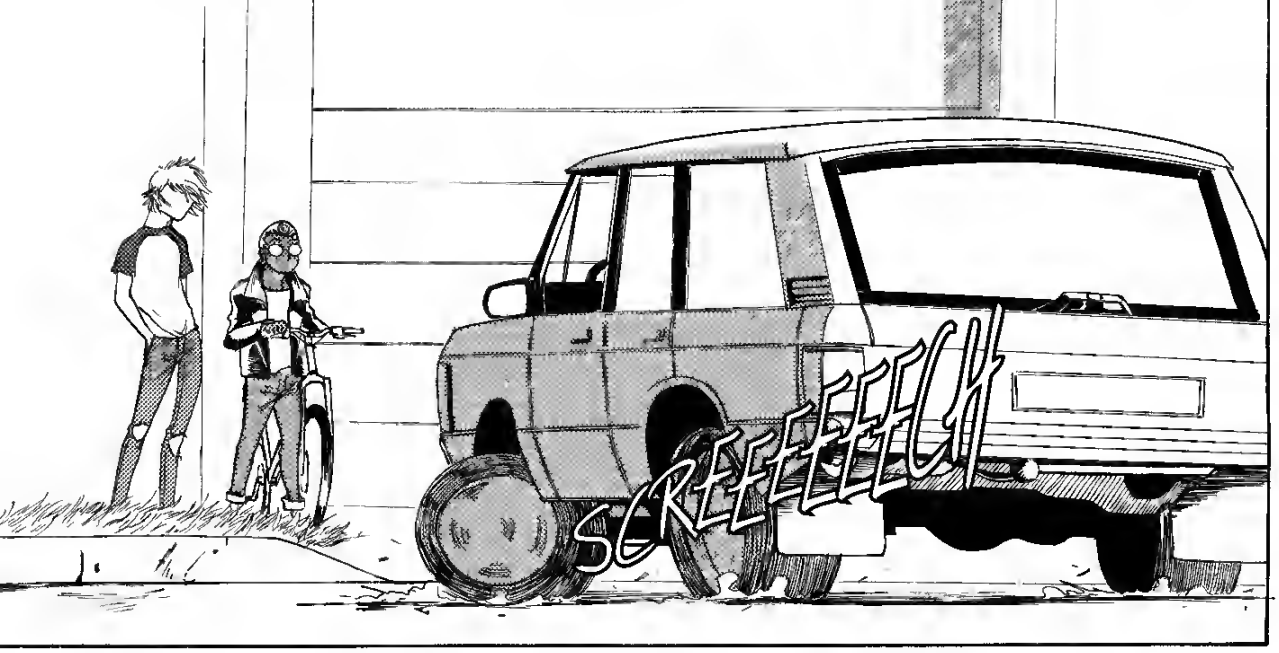


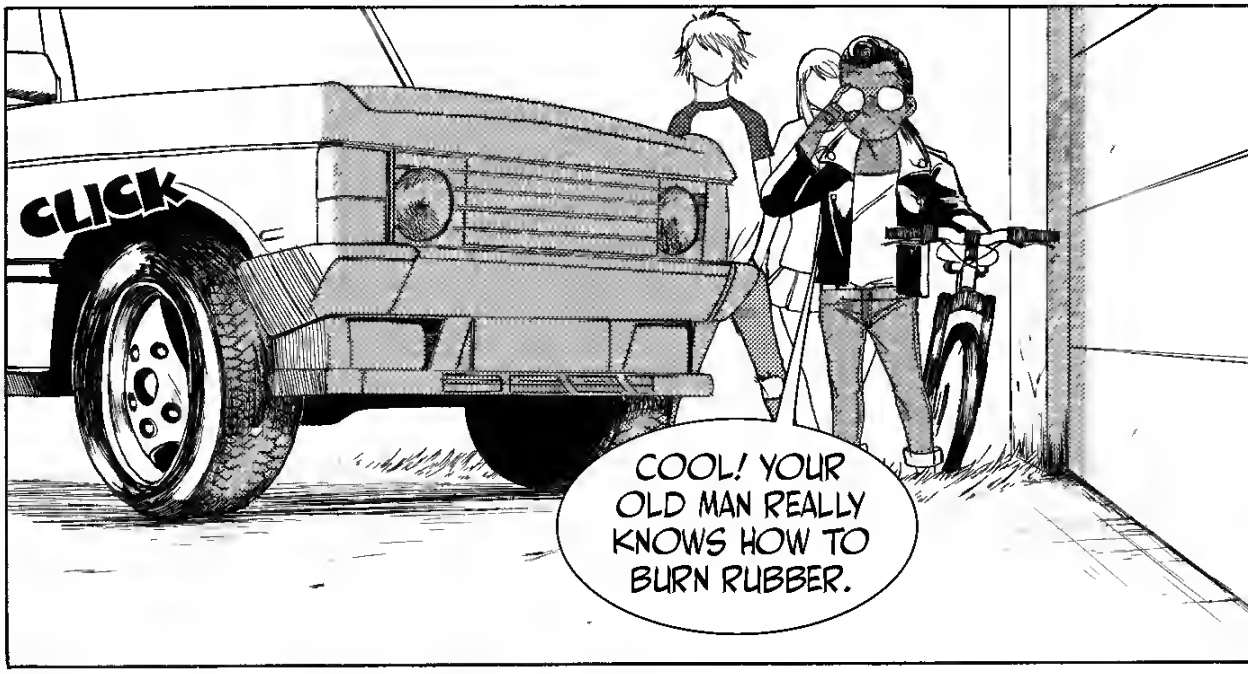

YUSUF, OTHER PEOPLE MAY BE EMBARASSED BY THE WAY YOU LOOK. THE CLOTHES, THE HAIRCUT, THE DOPEY '50s SLANG...


...BUT WE KNOW THAT'S JUST A FACADE. WE KNOW YOU ARE ACTUALLY JUST TOO COOL TO CARE...

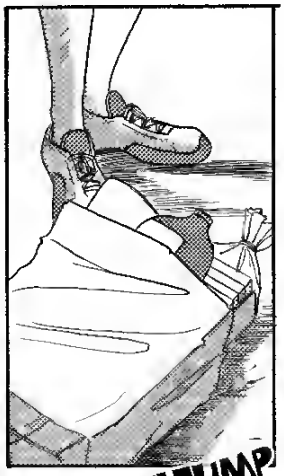
AND THE TRUTH IS, WE LOVE TO HANG OUT WITH YOU IN THE VAIN HOPE THAT SOME OF THAT COOL WILL RUB OFF ON US.


SO YOU'LL COME?
WE'LL COME.
UH, SAM, YOUR PARENTS ARE HOME.


SCREEEEEECH


CLICK
COOL! YOUR OLD MAN REALLY KNOWS HOW TO BURN RUBBER.

YOU HAD ONE THING TO DO! JUST *ONE* SIMPLE THING.

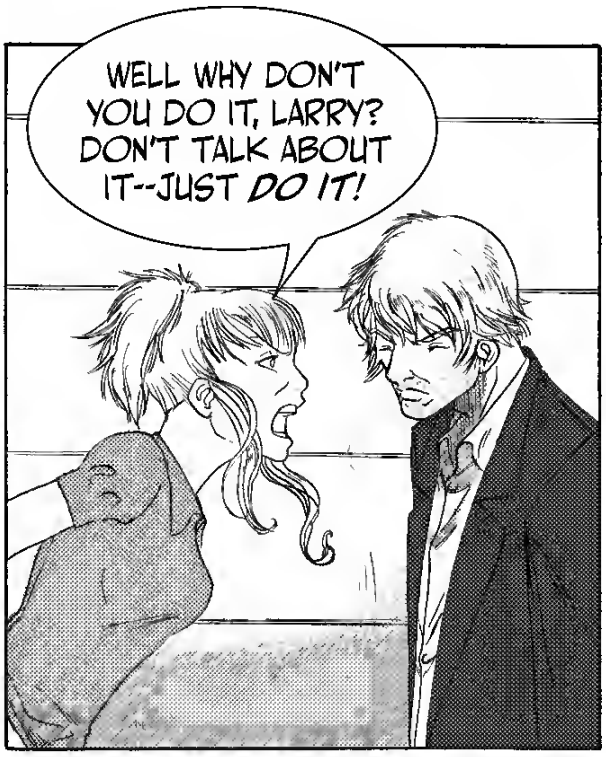

THUMP

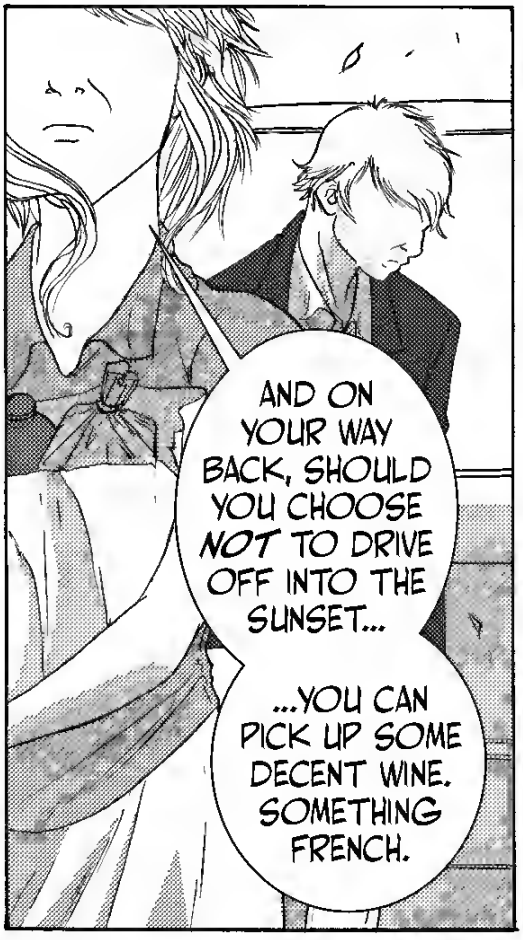
I HAVE PLANNED THE MEAL, I AM *COOKING* THE MEAL, I AM *SERVING* THE MEAL.

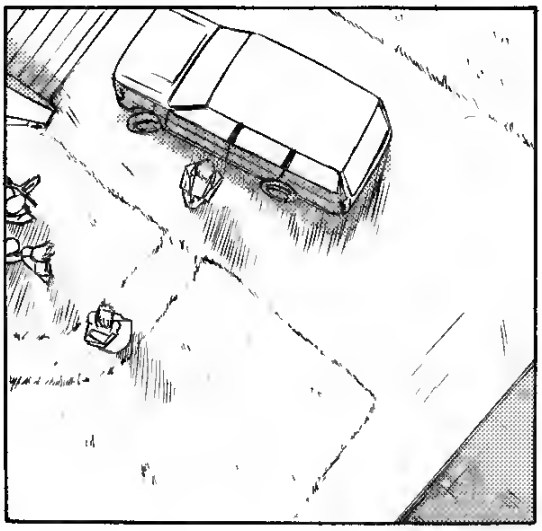
ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS WALK IN THE STORE AND READ THE LIST. LOOK HERE! WHAT DOES THIS SAY?
IT SAYS *MOREL* MUSH-ROOMS.
AND WHAT IS *THIS?*
HEY, MUSH-ROOMS ARE MUSHROOMS.
NO, LAURENCE.
MOREL MUSHROOMS ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR INTENSE WOODY AROMA AND EXQUISITE NUTTY FLAVOR, WHICH IS WHY THEY COST TWENTY DOLLARS AN OUNCE.
THESE ARE COMMON CULTIVATED MUSHROOMS WHICH COST A BUCK FIFTY A POUND AND TASTE LIKE SHIT.

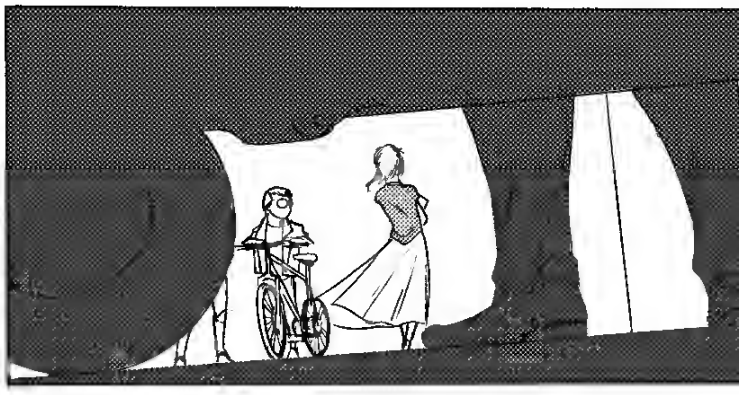
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
YOU WANT ME TO DRIVE ALL THE WAY BACK DOWNTOWN JUST TO GET THESE DAMN GOURMET MUSHROOMS SO YOUR GODDAMN SOPHISTICATED ENGLISH FRIENDS DON'T HAVE TO EAT SHITTY SUPER-MARKET MUSH-ROOMS?
YOU KNOW ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GOING TO GET IN THAT CAR--
OH, HERE WE GO.
OKAY. FINE.

"ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GOING TO GET IN THE CAR AND JUST KEEP DRIVING, RIGHT ON DOWN THE HIGHWAY, AND NEVER COME BACK."


WELL WHY DON'T YOU DO IT, LARRY? DON'T TALK ABOUT IT--JUST *DO IT!*


AND ON YOUR WAY BACK, SHOULD YOU CHOOSE *NOT* TO DRIVE OFF INTO THE SUNSET...
...YOU CAN PICK UP SOME DECENT WINE. SOMETHING FRENCH.





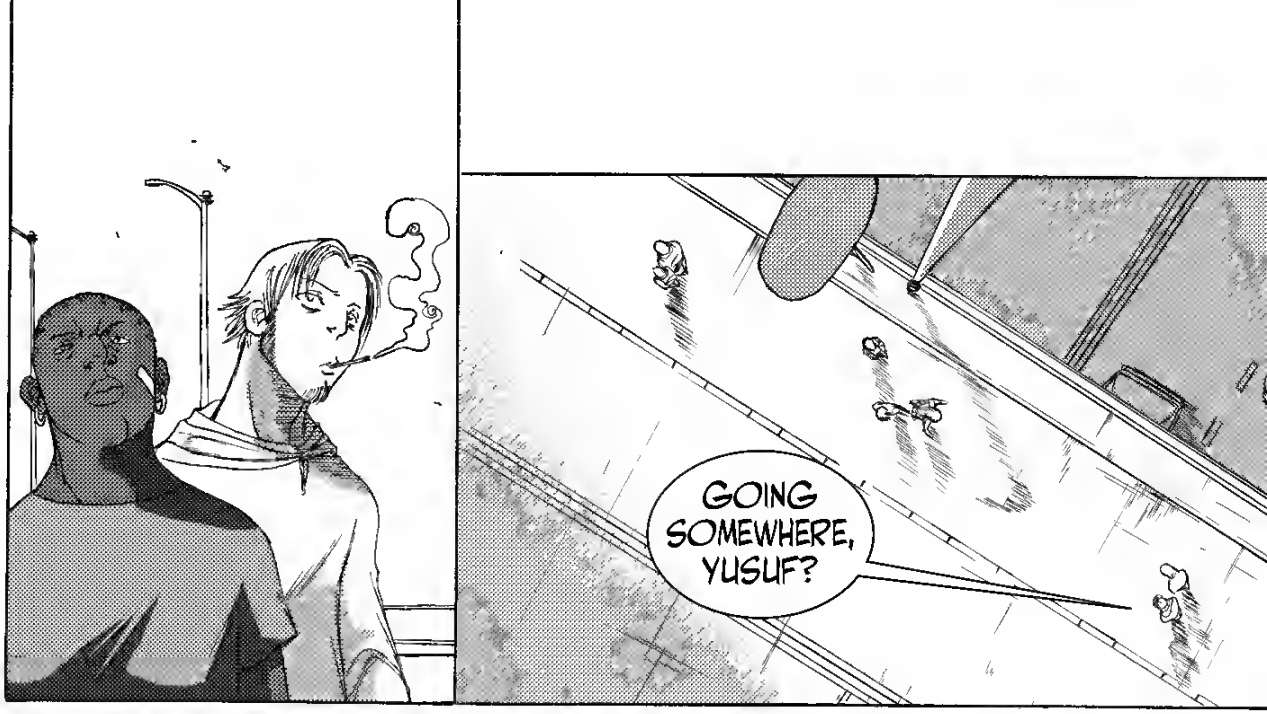
...
SKREECH

SKREECH!
SAM...
...PROMISE ME...
...THAT IS NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN TO US.
PROMISE...

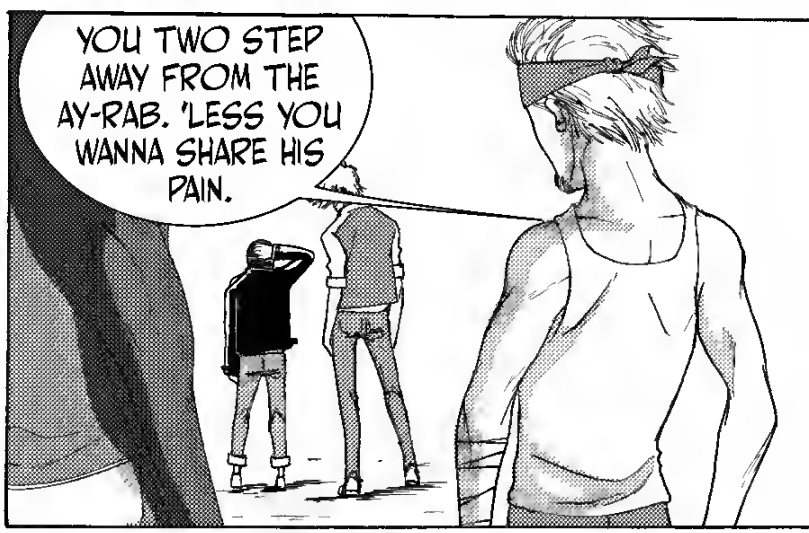
ARE YOUR FOLKS ALWAYS LIKE THAT?
THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, YEAH.
DRAGSVILLE. YOU THINK THEY'RE GONNA SPLIT?
HEY, YOU THINK YOUR OLD MAN'S SCREWING AROUND? YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY... "CHERCHEZ LA FEMME..."
YUSUF, CAN WE JUST--
OH, CRAP!
TELL ME THAT ISN'T ARNIE HESTON.

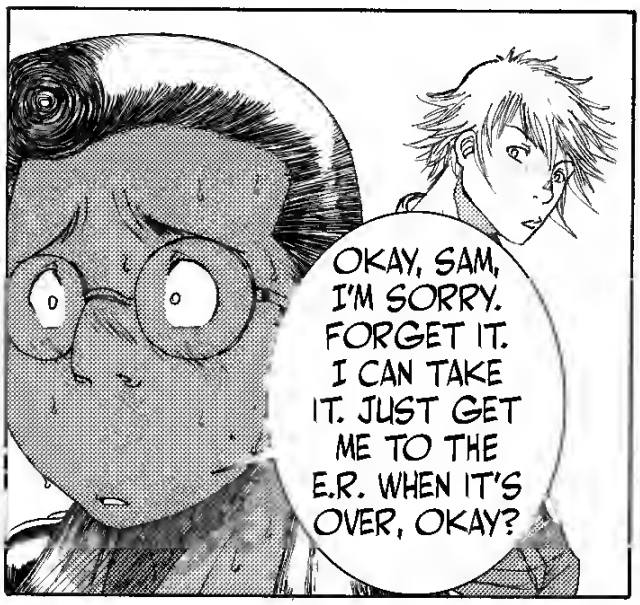
UH, HI, ARNIE.
HEY YOO-SUFF! CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS? JUST BUMPING INTO YOU LIKE THIS WHEN I'VE BEEN LOOKING *EVERYWHERE* FOR YOU ALL *WEEK!*
HEH! SNRRF!
YUSUF, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
ME? NOTHING. ZILCH. NADA!
YUSUF!
OKAY. I DID SOME-THING.

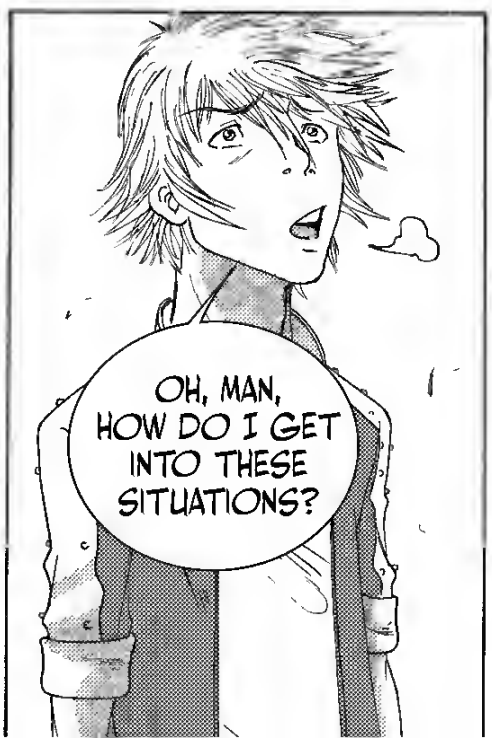
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT FOR ME, YUSUF? TWO GRAND OR TWO DIGITS?
LOS
AKERS
TWO GRAND?! DON'T TELL ME YOU BORROWED TWO GRAND FROM THAT PSYCHO-PATH.
NO. I BORROWED 500. TO PAY FOR THE GAMEBASE.
I JUST DIDN'T FULLY COMPREHEND THE REPAYMENT TERMS...
...OR HOW FAST COMPOUND INTEREST CAN STACK UP.
I'M TWO WEEKS LATE WITH MY PAYMENTS, SO THEY BREAK TWO FINGERS.
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! HOW COULD YOU--
GUYS! LET'S DISCUSS THIS LATER. RIGHT NOW WE SHOULD JUST TURN AROUND AND RUN LIKE--
FUCK!


GOING SOMEWHERE, YUSUF?

IS THIS WHY YOU WANTED ME ALONG? DO YOU EXPECT ME TO GET YOU OUT OF THIS?
NUH-NO... WELL...UH... YEAH... I MEAN... NO ONE EVER MESSES WITH YOU, RIGHT?


YOU TWO STEP AWAY FROM THE AY-RAB. 'LESS YOU WANNA SHARE HIS PAIN.


OKAY, SAM, I'M SORRY. FORGET IT. I CAN TAKE IT. JUST GET ME TO THE E.R. WHEN IT'S OVER, OKAY?


OH, MAN, HOW DO I GET INTO THESE SITUATIONS?

SAM, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO THE MACHO THING HERE!
I SWEAR I WILL STILL LOVE YOU IF YOU DON'T FIGHT.
SORRY, DONNA. GUESS IT'S IN MY GENES.
ARE YOU GOING TO STEP OUT OF THE WAY AND LET US STOMP HIS SORRY ASS?
HEH. I GUESS NOT. IF YOU WANT YUSUF, YOU'LL HAVE TO COME THROUGH ME.
OKAY, DIPSHIT, YOU WERE WARNED...
PIT-BULL! WASTE HIM!

WHAP!
HUH?
AAAGH!

KRAAK!
AH! AH! IT'S BROKE!
ARRRNIE...! HE BROKE MY ARM!
WHA--?!
WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING?

SAM?
JEEZ, SAM!

UNNGGH...
HE'S GOT A KNIFE!
VERY OBSERVANT, ASSHOLE!

SLASH!!
SAY YOUR PRAYERS, PRETTY BOY. YOU'RE ABOUT TO LOSE YOUR LOOKS.
SZZZZ
HUH?!
SZZZZ
AAH!!
SZZZZ

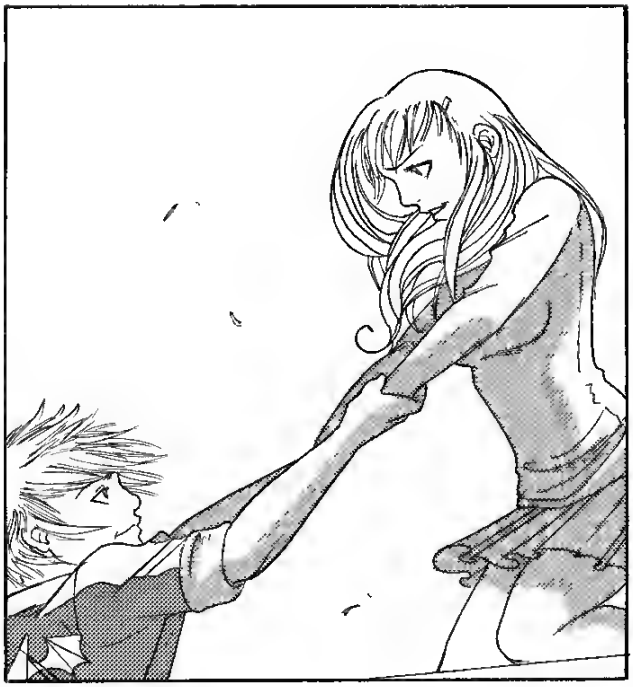
WHAT HAPPENED?
MY BLADE BURNED ME!
BLITZ! JOJO! TAKE HIM DOWN!
WHAP!
WHUMP!!
FWUP!

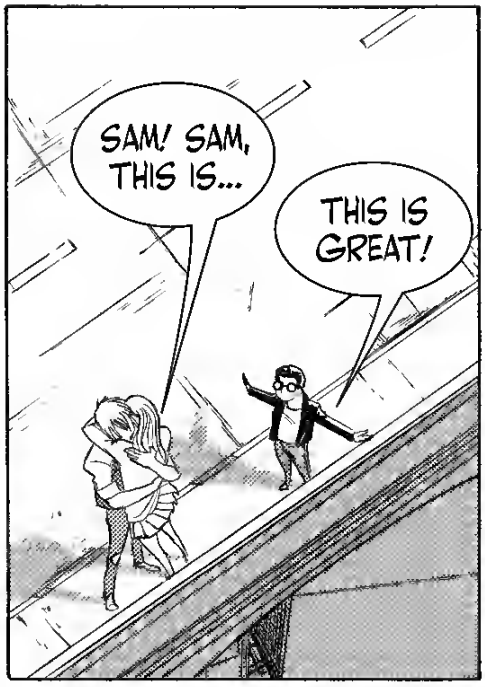
SAM!
BACK OFF, FREAK!
'LESS YOU WANNA SEE IF YOUR GIRLFRIEND CAN FLY!
LET ME GO!
AAAH!
ALL RIGHT, BITCH!! I'VE LET GO! HOW'S THAT?!
NOOOO!!

OH MY GOD!
DONNA!
NO!
?
Huh?

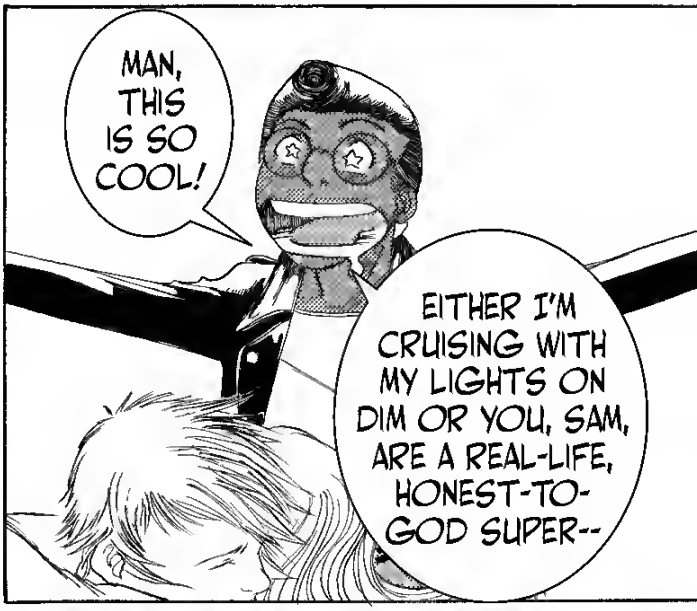
HONK
SKREE
HONK
AGGH!!
SKREEE
CRASH

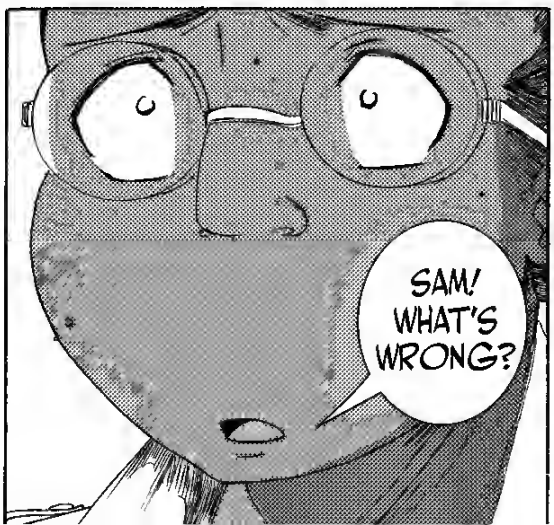
WHA--? THIS ISN'T...
...HAPPENING.




SAM! SAM, THIS IS...
THIS IS GREAT!

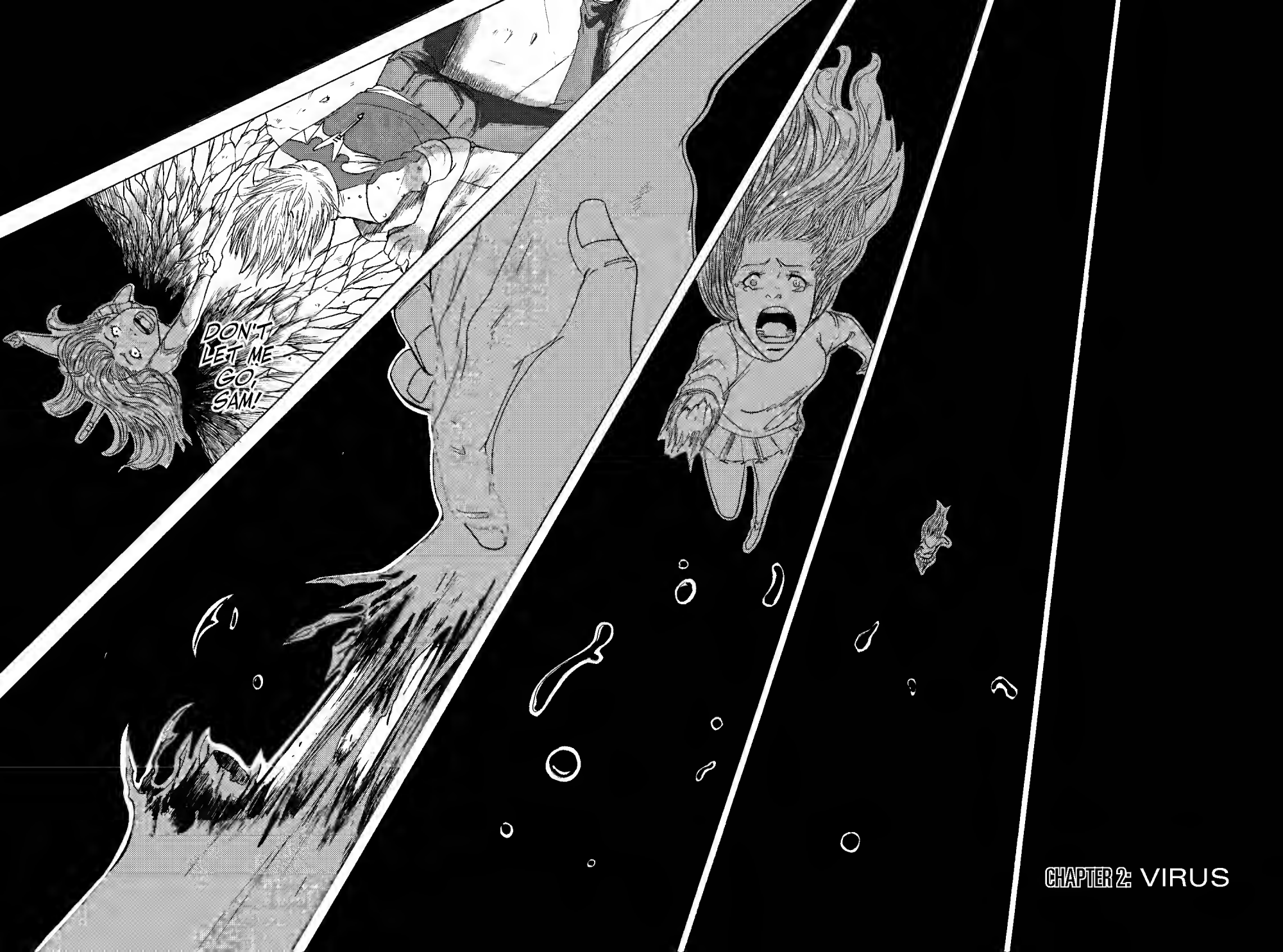
YEAH! THAT'S IT! RUN YOU PUSSIES!
YOU LOSERS!


MAN, THIS IS SO COOL!
EITHER I'M CRUISING WITH MY LIGHTS ON DIM OR YOU, SAM, ARE A REAL-LIFE, HONEST-TO-GOD SUPER--


SAM! WHAT'S WRONG?

UHNNG! I DON'T FEEL...
FEEL SICK...
SAM!
SAM!
SAM!

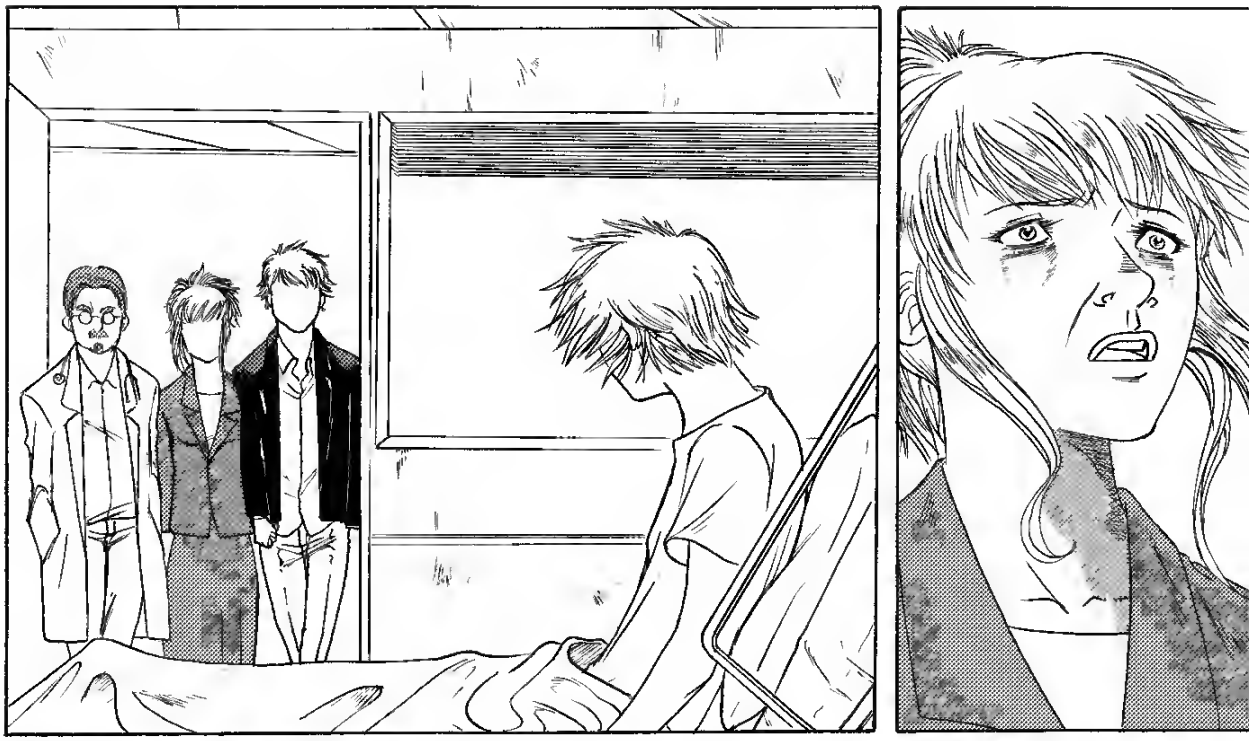
SAM!

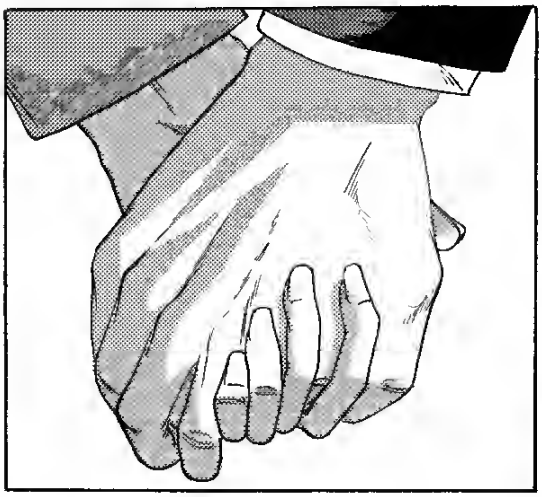

DON'T LET ME GO, SAM!

AAAAAH!
HEY, SLEEPING BEAUTY, YOU FINALLY WOKE UP.
WHA-? WHERE--?
YOU HAD A SEIZURE.
YOU'RE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITAL...
YOU'VE BEEN OUT FOR A LITTLE OVER TWELVE HOURS.
NOW YOU JUST TAKE IT EASY. I'LL GO FETCH DOCTOR BENAVIDES.

Waiting Room
SO WHAT HAPPENED? SAM DOESN'T JUST FAINT FOR NO REASON. WAS HE DRUNK?
NO.
WAS IT DRUGS? HAVE YOU BEEN GIVING MY BOY DRUGS?
NO, MRS. CHANCE.
OH? YOU MEAN YOU DON'T USE DRUGS? OR JUST NOT *TODAY*?
...BECAUSE STATISTICALLY, TWO-THIRDS OF AMERICAN HIGH-SCHOOL CHILDREN *DO* EXPERIMENT WITH DRUGS.
TWO-THIRDS!
BUT *YOU*, MISS CLEAN-CUT, ALL-AMERICAN GIRL...
YOU JUST SAY NO, RIGHT?

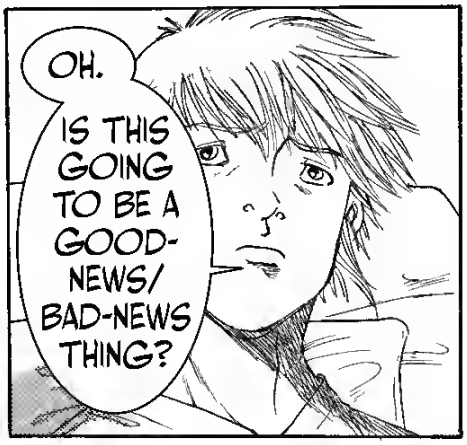
THAT'S ENOUGH CARO-LYNE. THEY ALREADY ASKED HER.
IF THEY HAD BEEN USING DRUGS, DONNA WOULD HAVE TOLD THEM... JUST LEAVE HER ALONE.
SOMETHING'S VERY WRONG... WHAT WAS GOING ON DOWN THERE?
YOU KNOW THERE WAS A PILE-UP ON THE FREEWAY TONIGHT, RIGHT WHERE SAM COLLAPSED.
MR. AND MRS. CHANCE? I NEED TO SPEAK TO YOU PRIVATELY.
IS HE OKAY?!
IS SAM OKAY?
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR FRIEND SOON.
FWOO



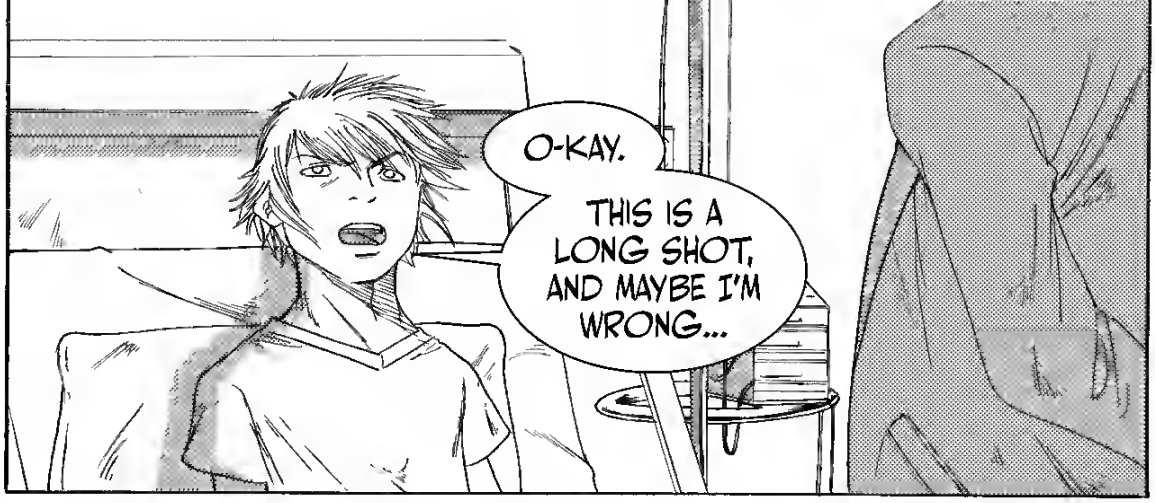


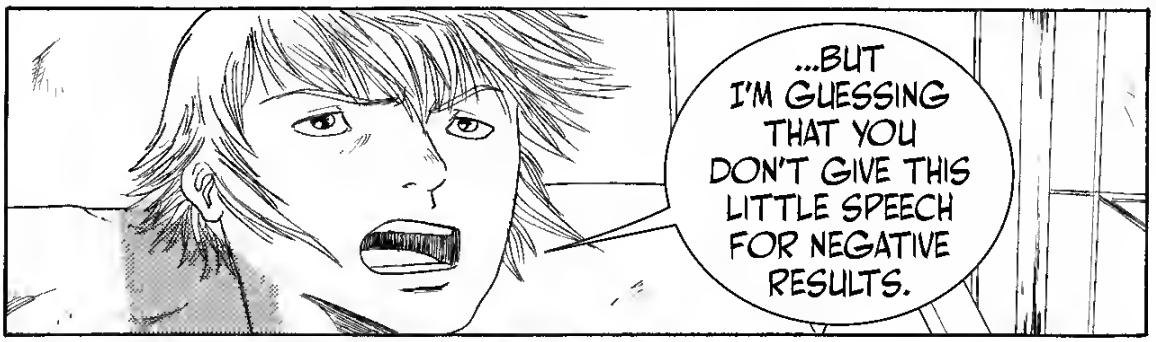
HEY, DID YOU TWO MAKE UP?

SAM... THE DOCTOR HAS SOMETHING TO TELL YOU...

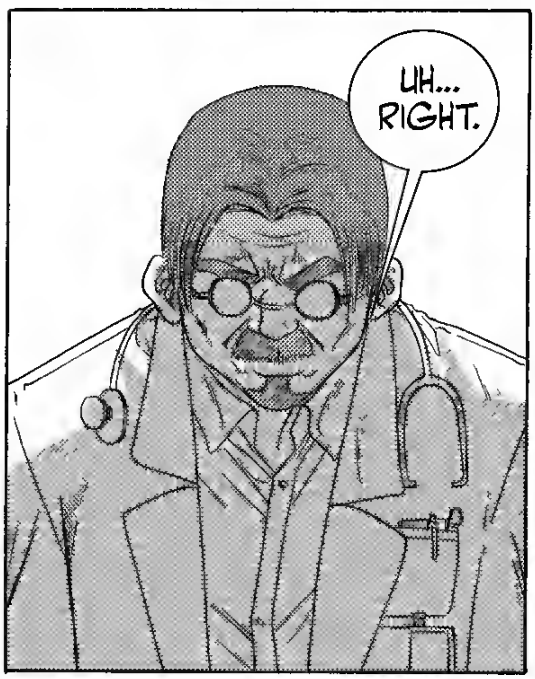

OH.
IS THIS GOING TO BE A GOOD-NEWS/ BAD-NEWS THING?

WE CARRIED OUT A FEW TESTS ON YOU.
SOME SIMPLE BLOOD TESTS.
AND...
IT'S A SCREENING PROCEDURE WE CARRY OUT ON ALL ADMITTANCES OF YOUR AGE GROUP.
AN ELIMINATION PROCEDURE.
USUALLY THE RESULTS ARE NEGATIVE.


O-KAY.
THIS IS A LONG SHOT, AND MAYBE I'M WRONG...


...BUT I'M GUESSING THAT YOU DON'T GIVE THIS LITTLE SPEECH FOR NEGATIVE RESULTS.

RIGHT?


UH... RIGHT.

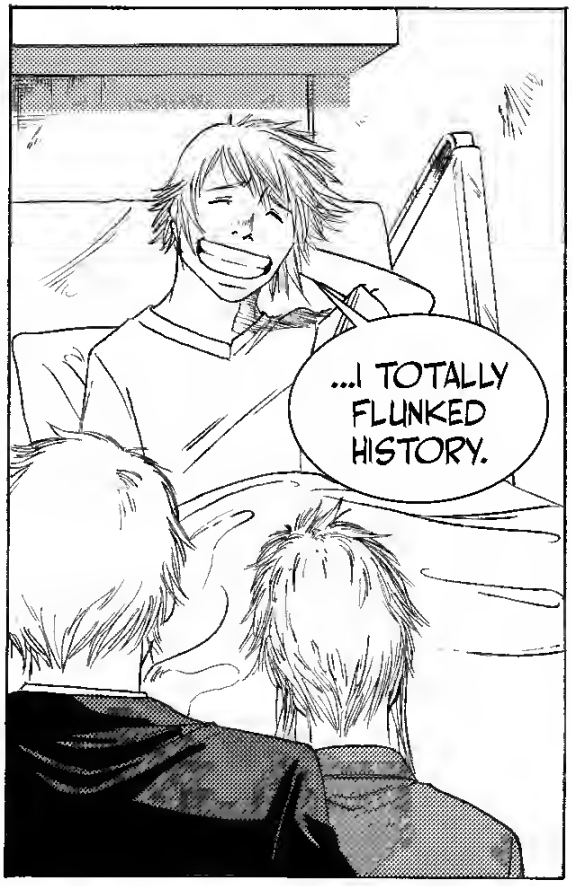
SO WHAT HAVE I GOT?

YOU'VE GOT THE SKAR VIRUS, SAM.
YOU CAN TELL THAT FAST?
I'M AFRAID THERE'S NO DOUBT.
I'VE DISCUSSED THIS WITH YOUR PARENTS, AND THEY HAVE ASKED ME TO... TO EXPLAIN WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN.
SO...

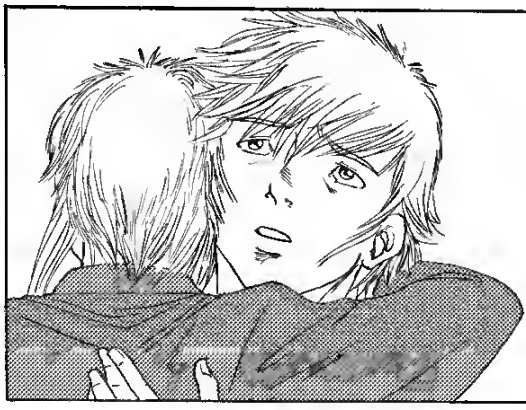
AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, THE SOUTH KOREAN ADOLESCENT RETROVIRUS AFFECTS ABOUT ONE PERSON IN FIFTY THOUSAND.
THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS IS WORLDWIDE. EVERYONE HAS COME INTO CONTACT WITH IT, SO QUARANTINE IS POINTLESS.
WE ALL CARRY IT, BUT ONLY CHILDREN FROM TWELVE TO EIGHTEEN DEVELOP SYMPTOMS.
UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS NO TREATMENT AT THIS TIME.
HOW LONG DO I HAVE?

YOU ARE AT THE UPPER END OF THE AGE RANGE FOR SKAR. THAT MEANS THE SYMPTOMS WILL DEVELOP MORE SLOWLY.
YOU CAN GO HOME ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. PROVIDED YOU DON'T OVERDO THINGS, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE A FAIRLY NORMAL LIFE...
HOW LONG?
MY BEST ESTIMATE WOULD BE...
...ABOUT THREE MONTHS, MAYBE FOUR.

WELL, I GUESS THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO TELL YOU...


...I TOTALLY FLUNKED HISTORY.

OH, SAM.

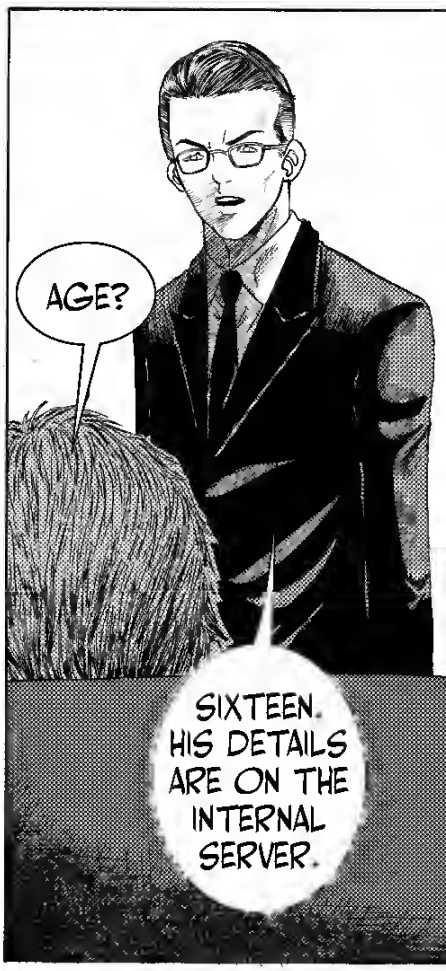


DONNA, SAM WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU NOW.
HUH? WHA--?
IS SAM AWAKE? CAN WE SEE HIM?
JUST DONNA FOR NOW.
OH.

OH,
NO.

THIS IS JANET TAGHABORI. I'M A NURSE AT LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITAL.
I WAS TOLD TO CALL THIS NUMBER IF...
YES. THAT'S RIGHT.
WE HAVE ONE.

SIR.
WE HAVE A CONFIRMED SUBJECT. EARLY STAGES.


AGE?
SIXTEEN. HIS DETAILS ARE ON THE INTERNAL SERVER.

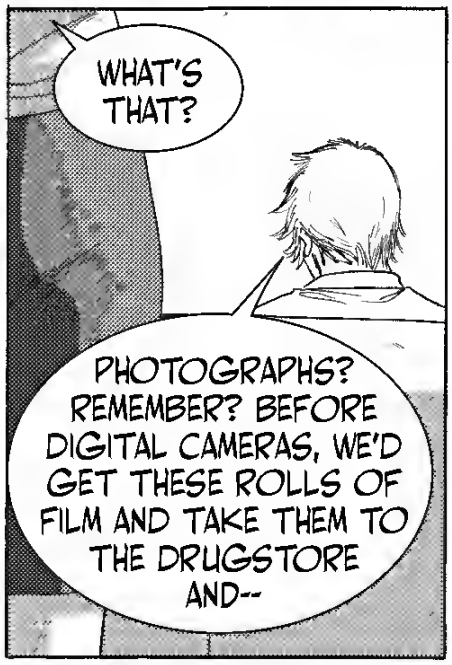
Name: Samuel Feargal Chance
DOB: March 20, 1991
Sex: M
Mother's Name: Carolyne Chance
Father' Name: Laurence Chance
Address: 27430 Seneca Blvd,
Los Angeles, CA 91070
Height: 5' 10"
Weight: 148
Hair: Light Brown
Eyes: Brown

PERFECT.

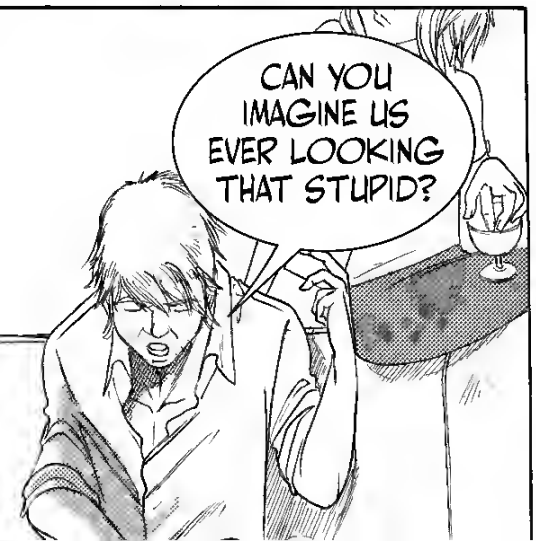
WELL NOW, EDGAR, WHAT DO YOU SAY WE PAY MR. SAMUEL CHANCE A VISIT?

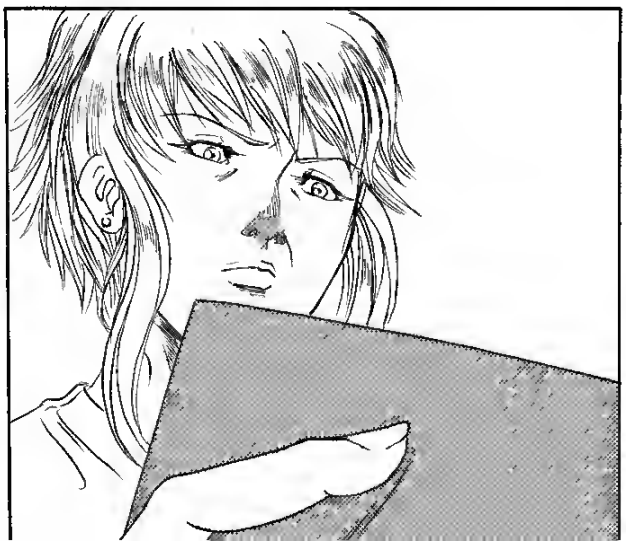
KROO-AAAA

CHAPTER 3: RAVEN


WHAT'S THAT?
PHOTOGRAPHS? REMEMBER? BEFORE DIGITAL CAMERAS, WE'D GET THESE ROLLS OF FILM AND TAKE THEM TO THE DRUGSTORE AND--

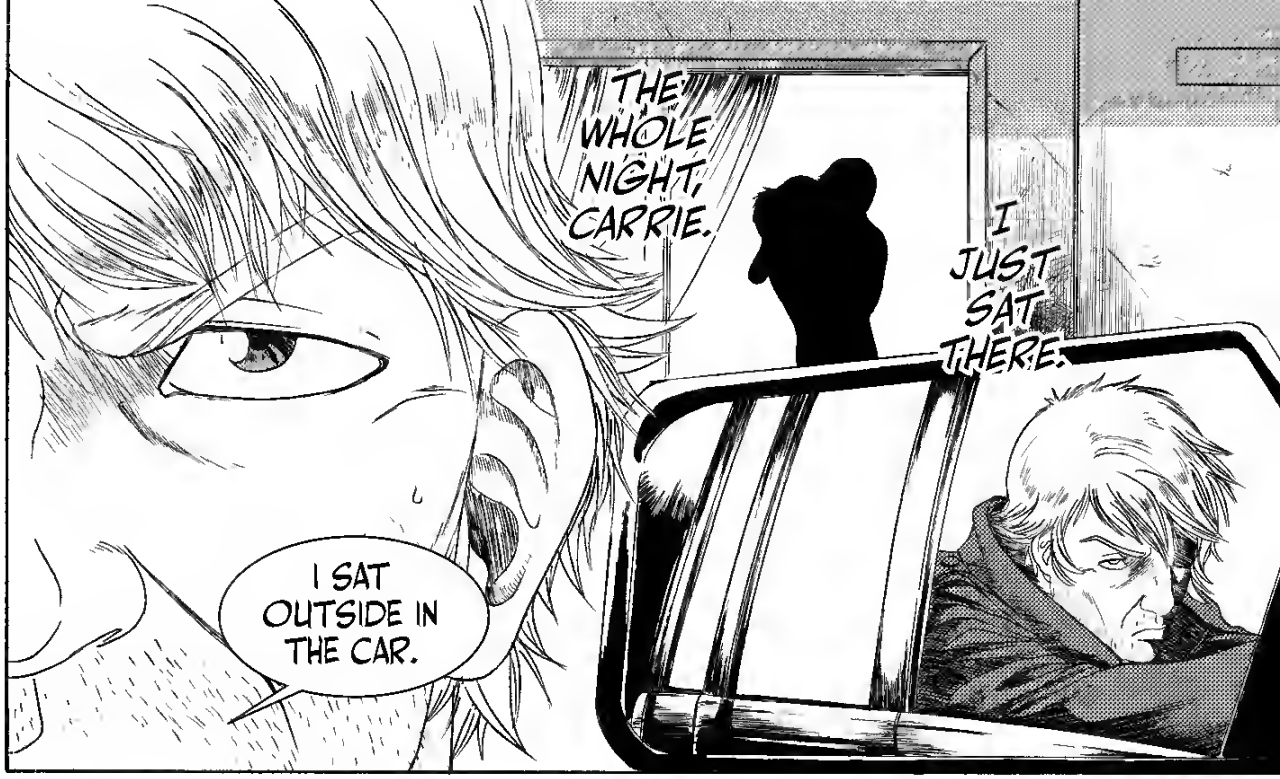
VERY WITTY.
OH MY GOD, IS THAT US?
NOPE. IT'S OUR EVIL TWINS.


CAN YOU IMAGINE US EVER LOOKING THAT STUPID?



YOU REMEMBER THE NIGHT WE MET? WE GOT STONED ON THAT LEBANESE GRASS YOU STOLE FROM YOUR BROTHER...
LARRY, THAT WAS--
YOU REMEMBER?
WE TALKED ABOUT ALL THE WILD SHIT WE WERE GONNA DO.
I WAS GOING TO BE A KICK-ASS GUITAR HERO, AND YOU'D MAKE THESE INSANE UNDERGROUND ART-PORN MOVIES.
AND THEN CAME THE SOBERING DAY WHEN WE WOKE UP TO THE FACT THAT WE JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE TALENT...
...AND WE GOT REAL JOBS...

SAM HAS THE TALENT. THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM WITH A GUITAR IN HIS HANDS--
WELL, IT ISN'T GOING TO HAPPEN NOW...
I KNOW ABOUT TALBOT.
WHAT?
I'VE KNOWN FOR MONTHS.
TALBOT IS A CLIENT.
THE LOST
I FOLLOWED YOU. YOU MET HIM AT THE LOST HIGHWAY MOTEL. YOU STAYED IN ROOM 213.
THAT NIGHT YOU WERE GOING TO STAY OVER WITH YOUR COUSIN IN SANTA BARBARA...?

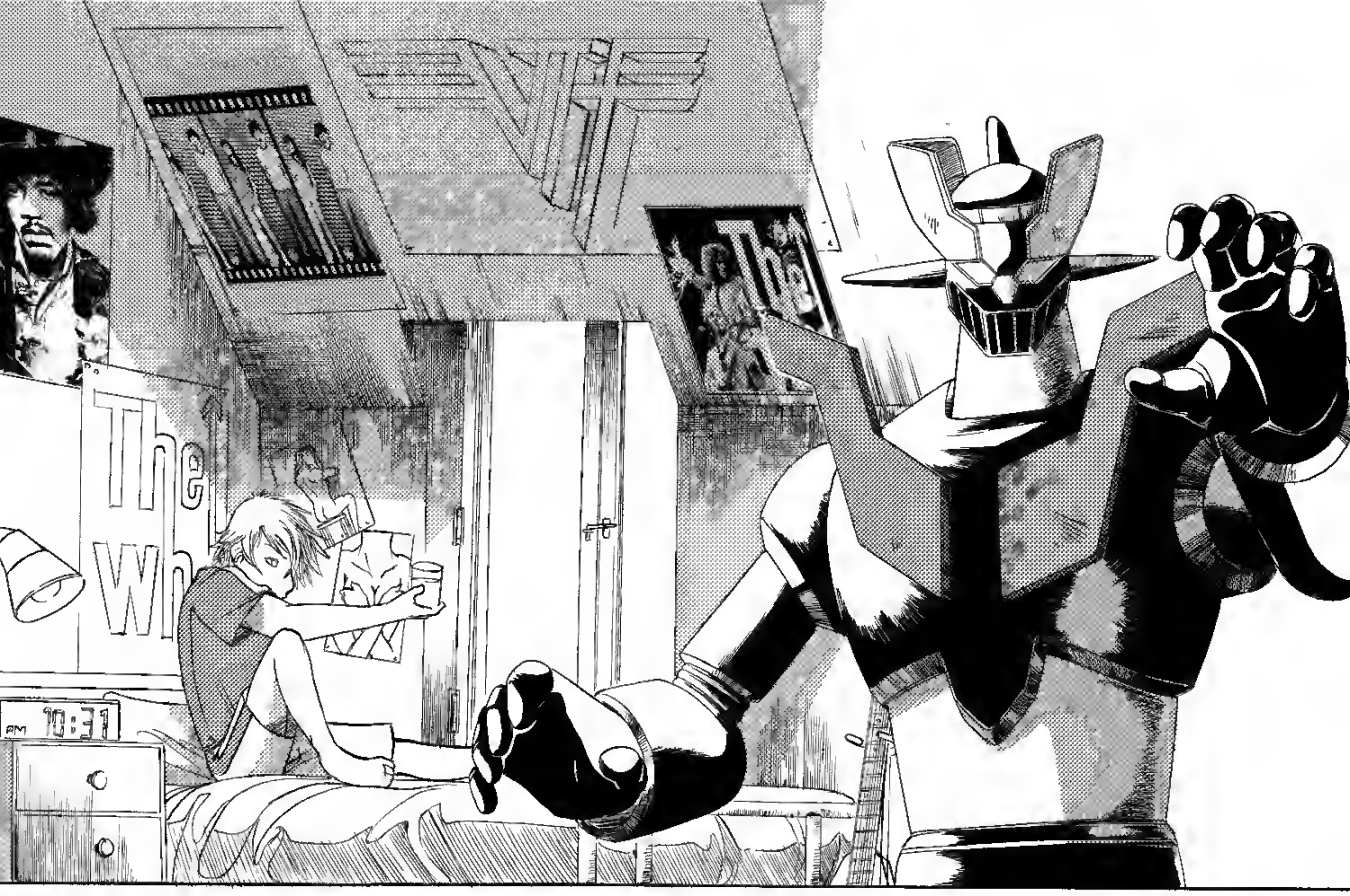

I SAT OUTSIDE IN THE CAR.
THE WHOLE NIGHT, CARRIE.
I JUST SAT THERE.

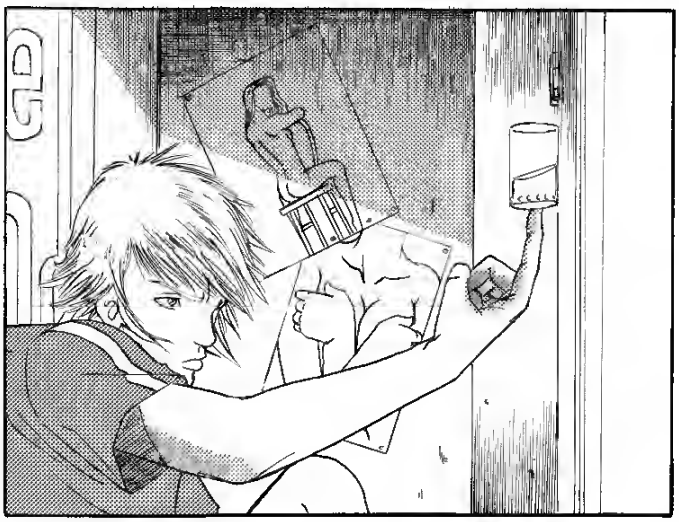
ISN'T THAT PATHETIC?

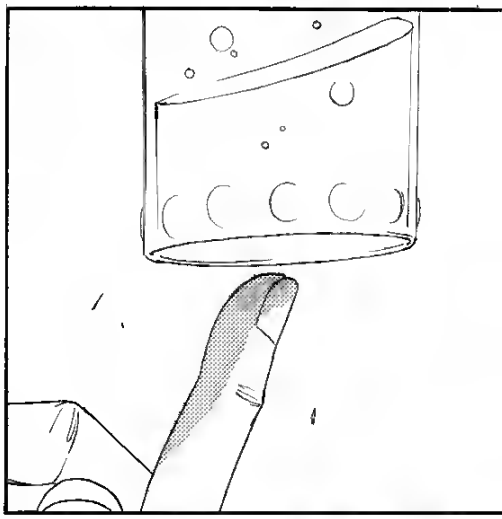
YES.

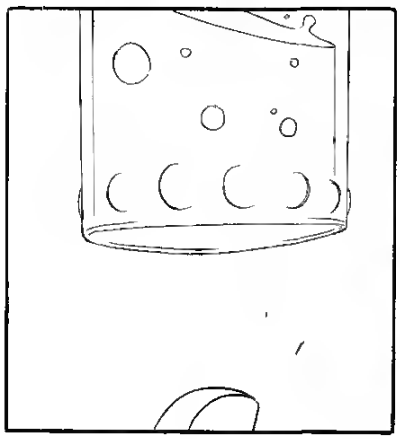
ACTUALLY, YES, IT IS.

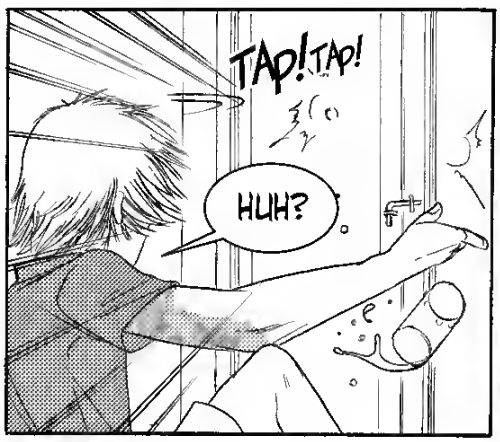
I'M NOT GOING TO STOP SEEING HIM, LARRY.
I'LL PLAY HAPPY FAMILY, FOR SAM'S SAKE, BUT WHEN THIS IS OVER. WHEN SAM...
...
...WHEN THIS IS OVER...
I'M LEAVING YOU, LARRY.


The
Wh
PM
10:31








TAP! TAP!
HUH?

THUMP!

SAM! COME ON, OPEN UP BEFORE SOMEONE SEES ME AND CALLS 9-1-1.
CLICK
OOF!
THERE IS NO WAY I AM DOING *THAT* EVERY NIGHT.
YOU HAVE TO TALK TO YOUR PARENTS, SAM.
BUT MOM--
SCREW YOUR MOM! I'M MOVING IN HERE WITH YOU.
I'LL TELL THEM TOMOR-ROW.

YOU DO WANT ME TO STAY WITH YOU, RIGHT?
OH, YES.
I WANT TO SPEND EVERY MINUTE WITH YOU, SAM. EVERY SECOND.
...I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO DIE.
I KNOW IT.
IT'S WEIRD. I KNOW THE SKAR VIRUS IS LIKE THIS DEATH SENTENCE-- TOTALLY INCURABLE AND SHIT, BUT...
I KNOW I'M NOT GOING TO DIE.

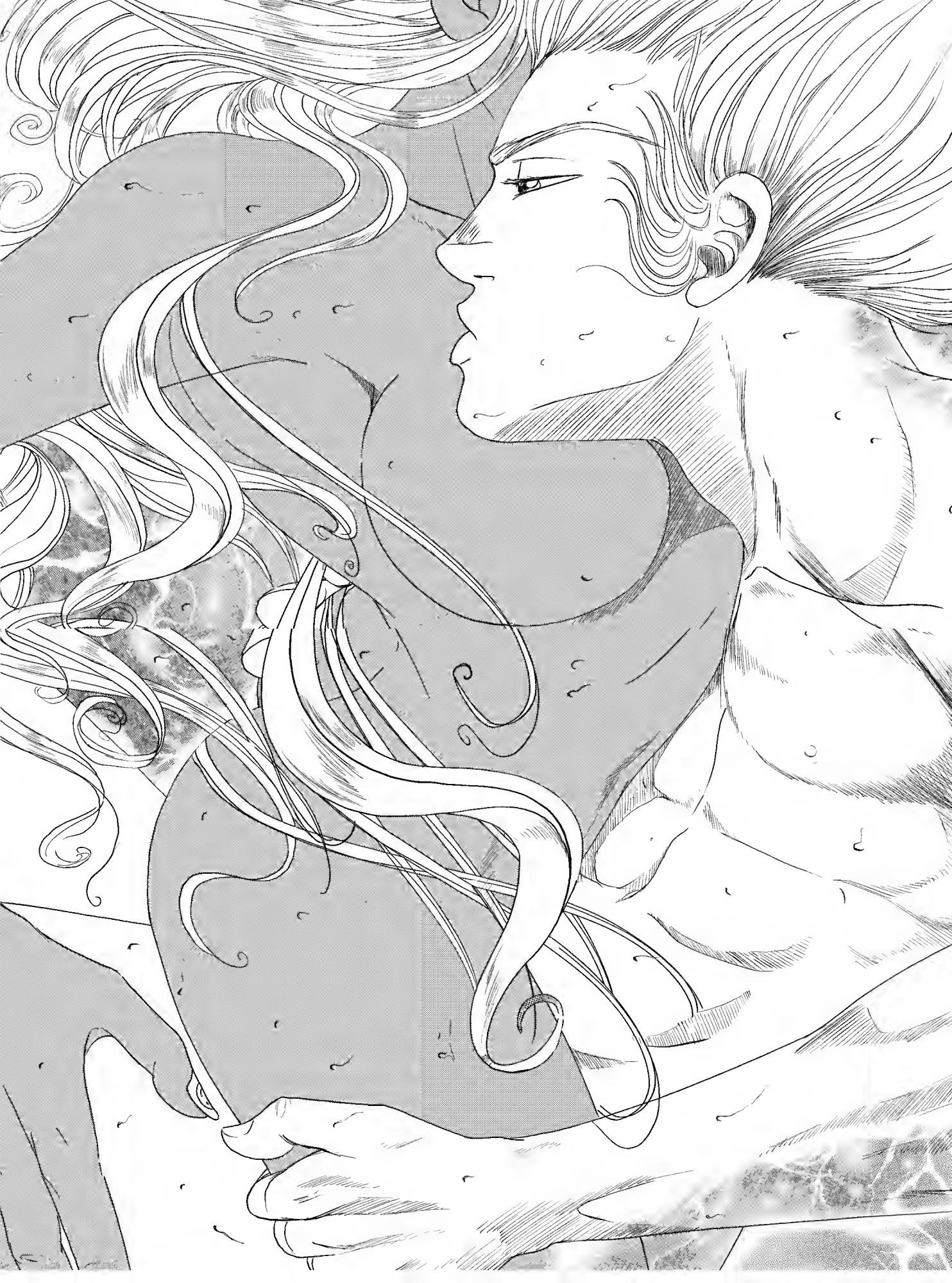
DOWN AT THE BRIDGE... WHAT I DID TO PIT-BULL AND THE OTHERS... THAT *HAPPENED* DONNA...IT REALLY HAPPENED.
I MADE YOU FLY.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TELL SOMEONE.
LIKE WHO? MOM AND DAD? THE FBI? DAN RATHER?
THEY'D THINK I WAS LOSING MY--
MI- YI - YI -

SO, ARE YOU COMING TO BED OR WHAT?
NUH!
NNNH!
AGGGGH!
WHUFF!
SWIP
WHOA!
SLOW DOWN, TIGER!

WE'VE GOT ALL NIGHT.
TROJAN
NO, SAM.

WE DON'T NEED THAT.
BUT--
BUT WHAT IF--?
JUST HOLD ME.
SSHH...

OH, SAM...
WHAT ARE YOU...
...DO-O-O-ING...?



ARE YOU COMING TO BED?
WHY? ARE YOU FEELING FRISKY?
TSK!
HEH...
NOW WHO'S THAT? KIND OF LATE FOR VISITORS.

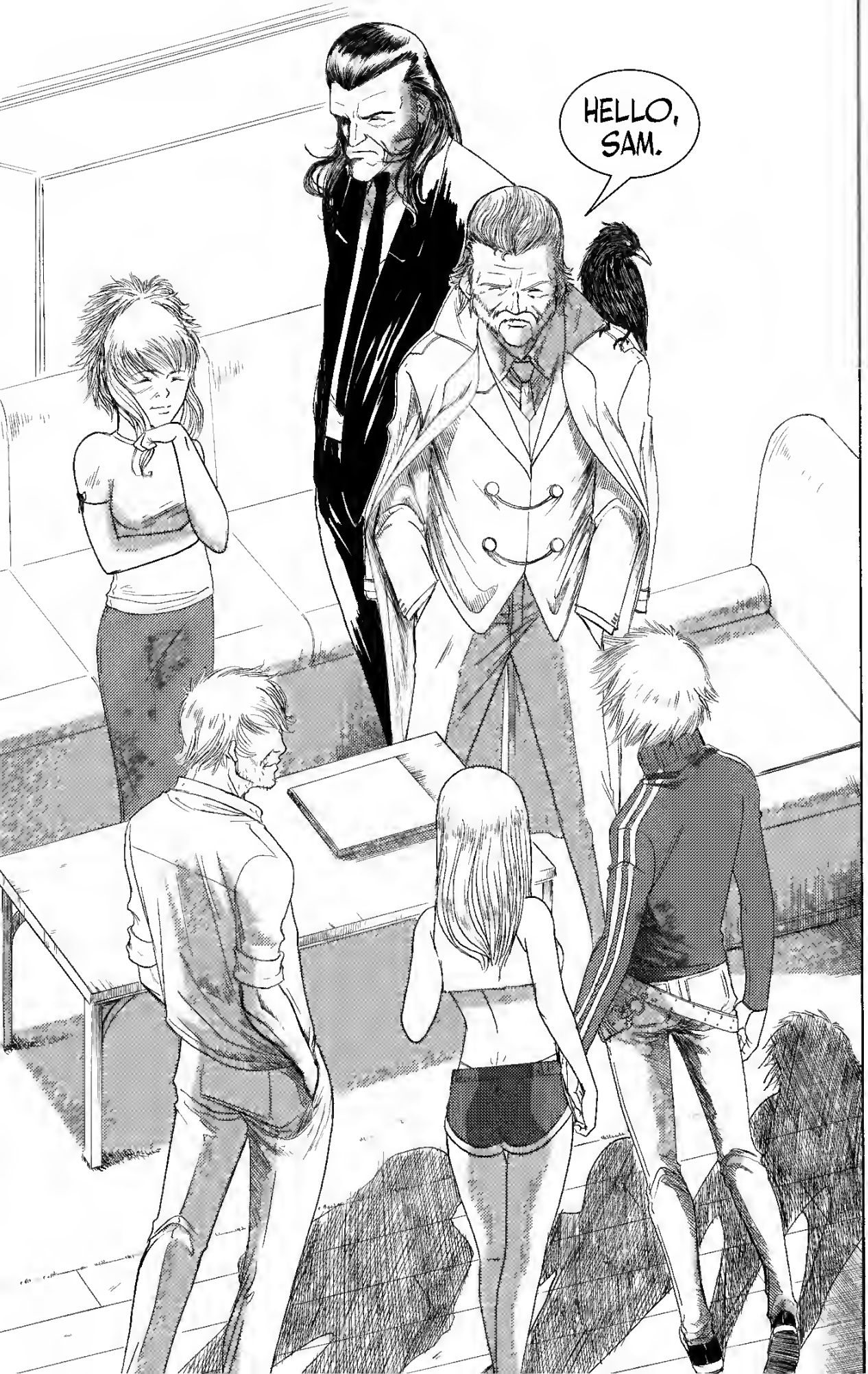
BING BONG!
BING BONG!
OKAY! OKAY! I'M COMING!
BING BONG!
CLACK
GOOD EVENING, MR. CHANCE.

SAM, ARE YOU AWAKE?
OH, SHIT! GET UNDER THE COVERS.
SAM, YOU NEED TO GET UP. SOMEONE'S HERE TO SEE YOU.
MOM, DAD! HI!
IS IT YUSUF? TELL HIM I'LL CALL HIM TOMOR-ROW.
I'M FEELING REALLY BEAT.
IT'S NOT YUSUF. THIS IS IMPORTANT, SAM.

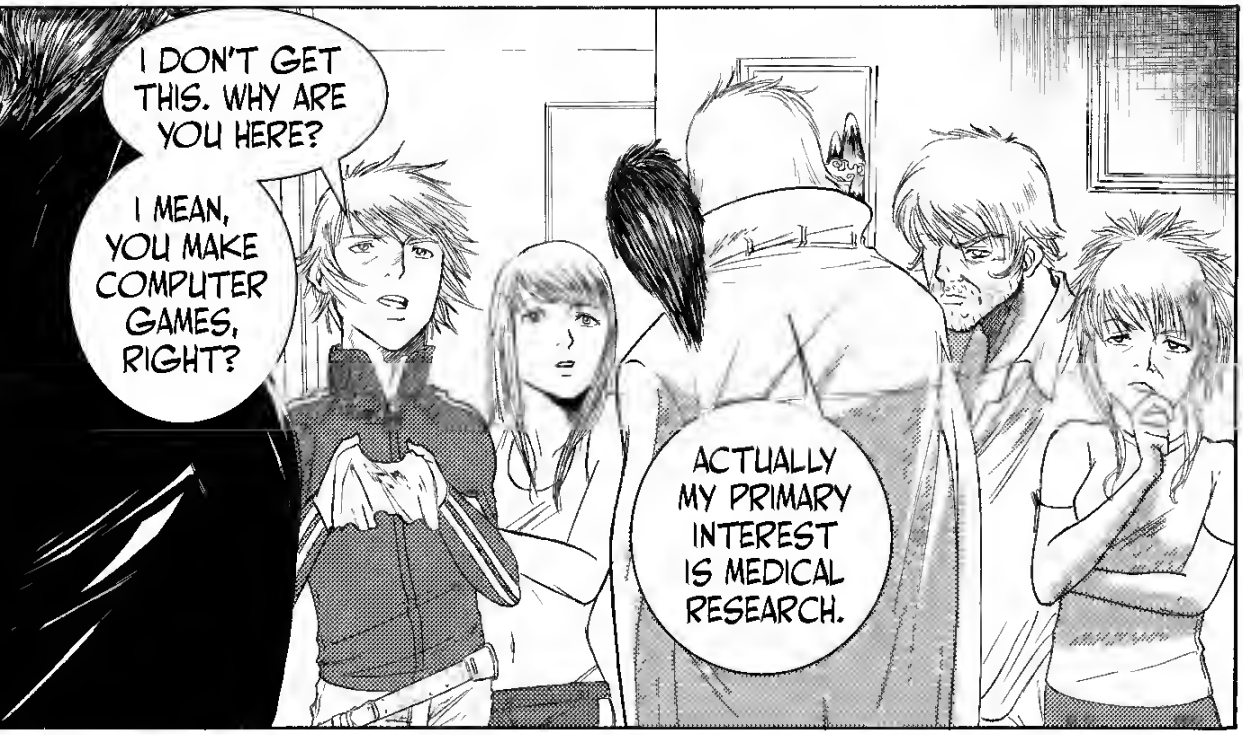
OKAY...
YOU CAN COME OUT NOW, DONNA.
H-HI, MRS. CHANCE.
SHE'S NOT LEAVING!
DONNA'S GOING TO BE STAYING HERE.
OKAY?

NOW GET DRESSED AND COME DOWN-STAIRS.
OKAY...
WOW! I THOUGHT SHE HATED ME.
SHE DOES. YOU KNOW WHY?
BECAUSE...
NO, I DON'T.
BECAUSE SHE USED TO BE JUST LIKE YOU.
...

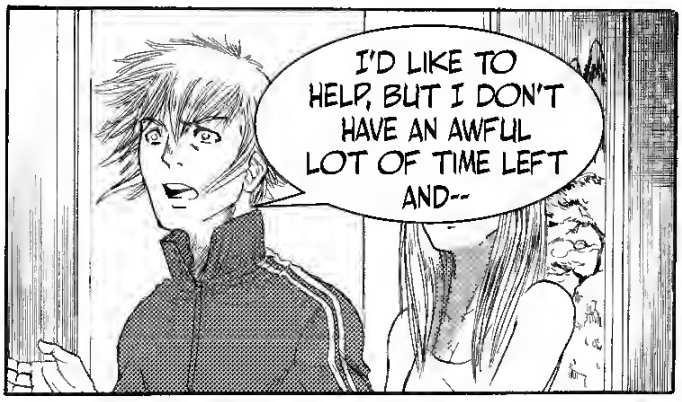
SO WHO IS THIS MYSTERIOUS VISITOR?
HIS NAME IS HENRY RAVEN.
HENRY RAVEN, AS IN ELEKTROACTIVE HENRY RAVEN?
THAT'S THE ONE.
OH, SURE. COME ON, DAD...
...WHO IS IT?
KROo-AA'AA


HELLO, SAM.

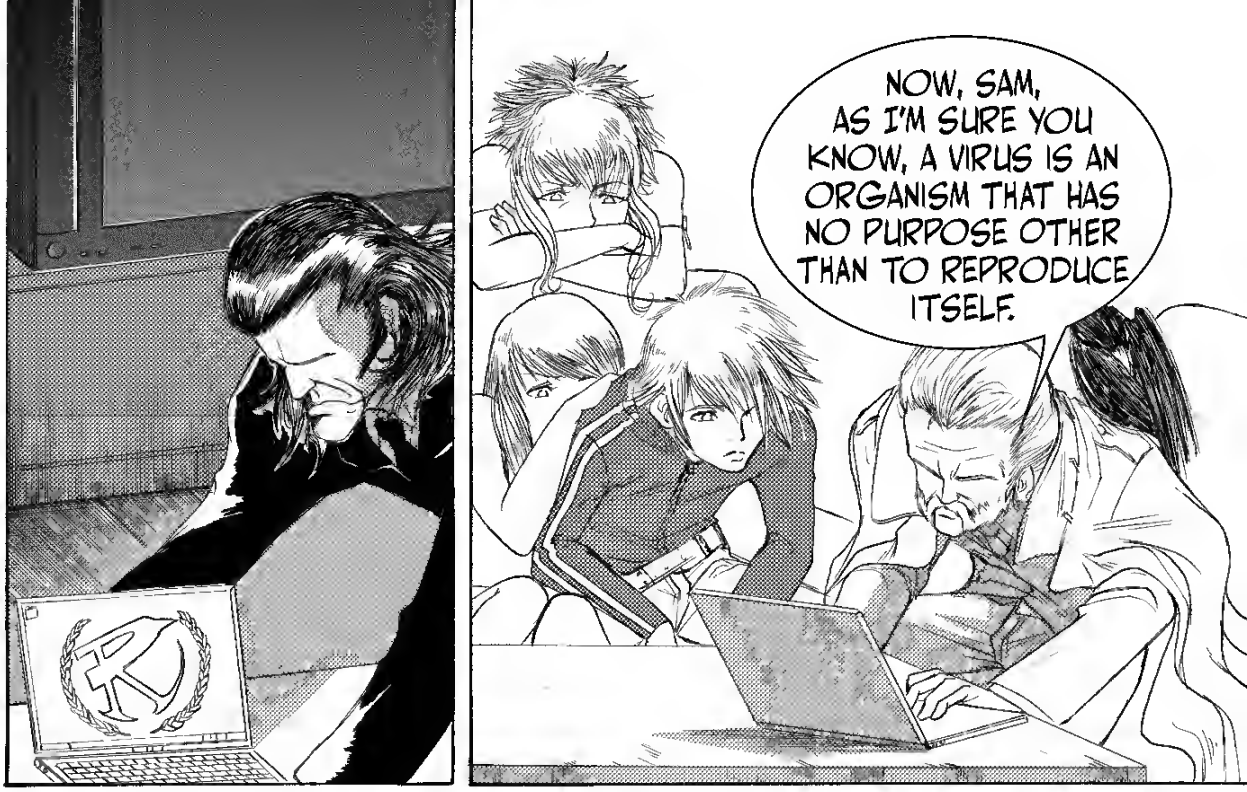
YOU'RE...
...HERE.
YOU HAVE A NOSEBLEED.
OH.
THANKS.

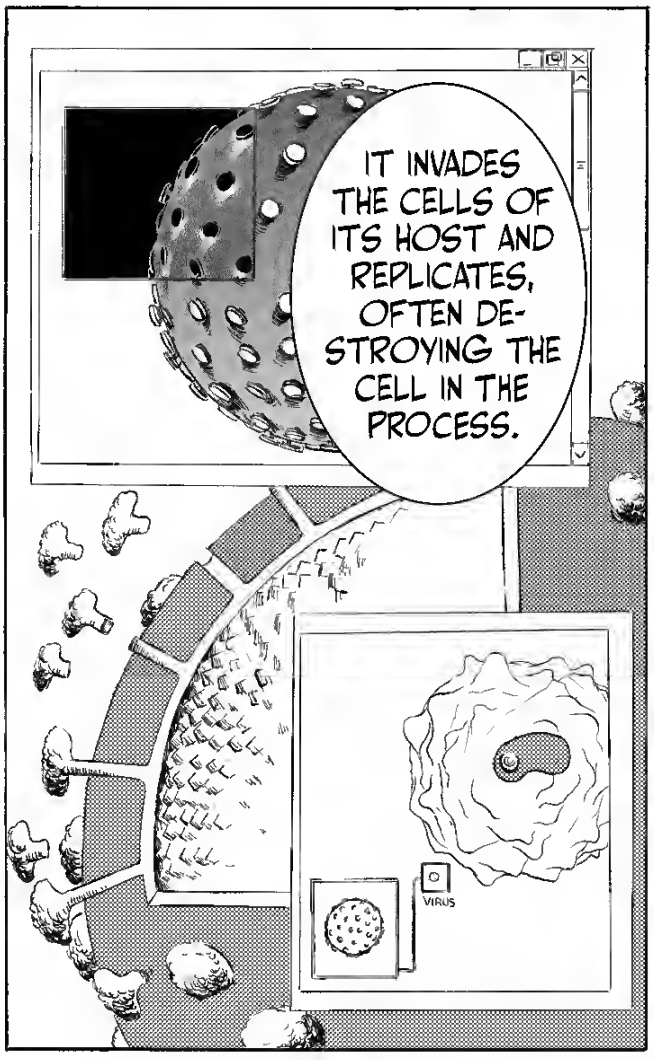

I DON'T GET THIS. WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I MEAN, YOU MAKE COMPUTER GAMES, RIGHT?
ACTUALLY MY PRIMARY INTEREST IS MEDICAL RESEARCH.

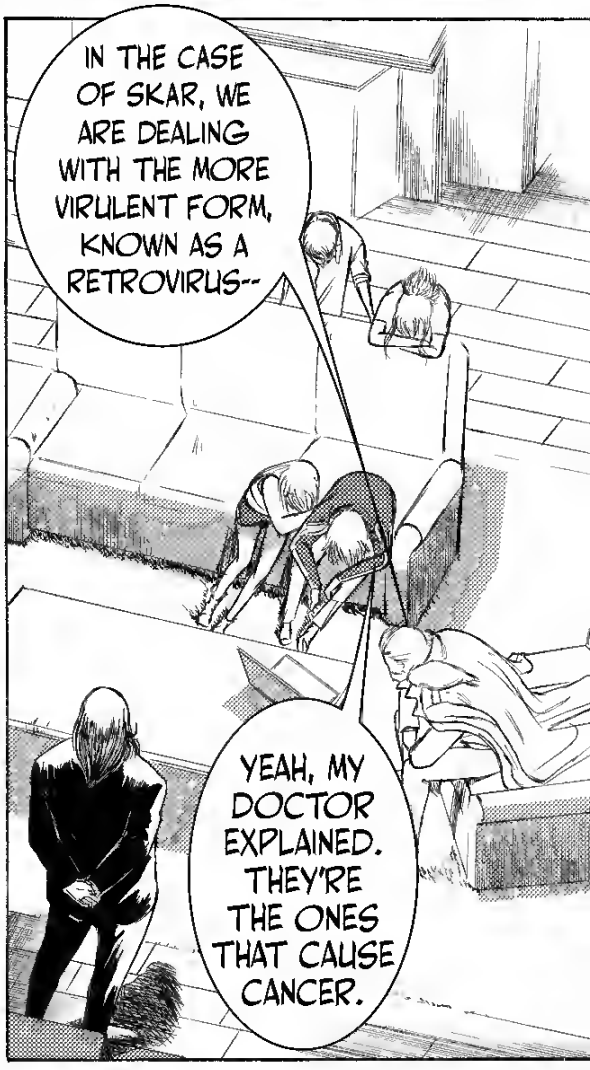
I'VE SET UP A CLINIC DEDICATED TO FINDING A CURE FOR THE SOUTH KOREAN ADOLESCENT RETRO-VIRUS.
SO YOU WANT TO... WHAT? STUDY ME?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.


I'D LIKE TO HELP, BUT I DON'T HAVE AN AWFUL LOT OF TIME LEFT AND--

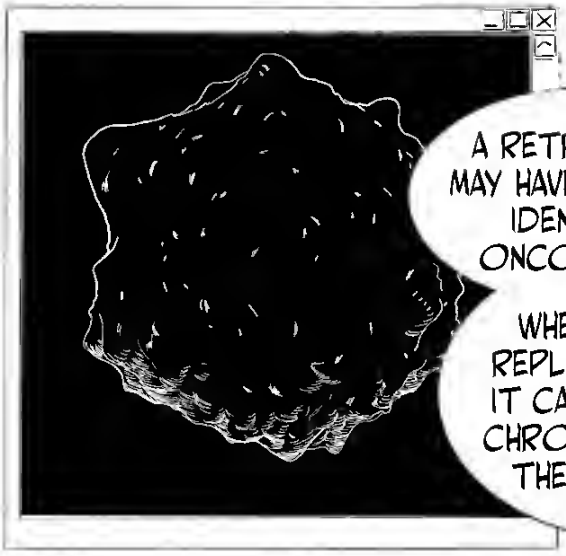
IF YOU'LL BEAR WITH ME, I'D LIKE TO EXPLAIN IN LAYMAN'S TERMS WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THIS VIRUS.
OSCAR, THE LAPTOP PLEASE...

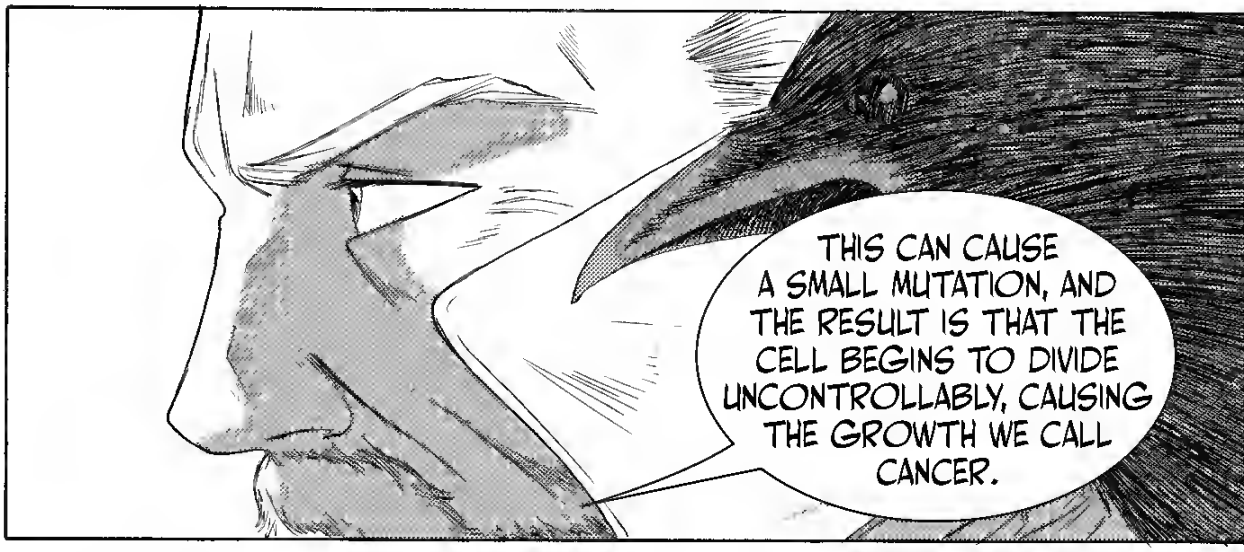

NOW, SAM, AS I'M SURE YOU KNOW, A VIRUS IS AN ORGANISM THAT HAS NO PURPOSE OTHER THAN TO REPRODUCE ITSELF.


IT INVADES THE CELLS OF ITS HOST AND REPLICATES, OFTEN DE-STROYING THE CELL IN THE PROCESS.
VIRUS


IN THE CASE OF SKAR, WE ARE DEALING WITH THE MORE VIRULENT FORM, KNOWN AS A RETROVIRUS--
YEAH, MY DOCTOR EXPLAINED. THEY'RE THE ONES THAT CAUSE CANCER.

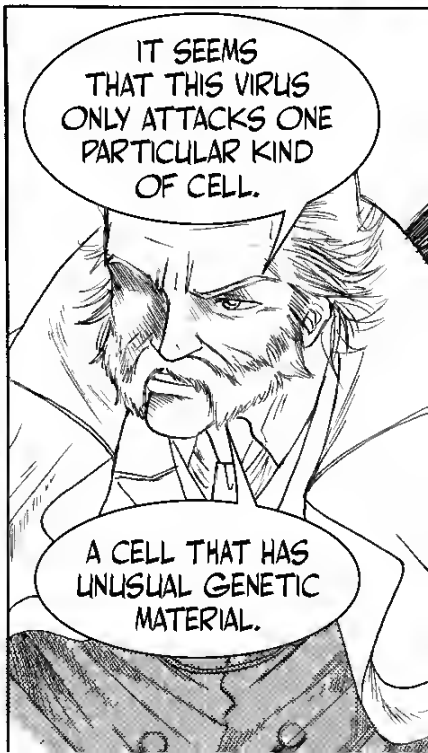
EACH CHROMOSOME CARRIES SEVERAL-THOUSAND GENES, EACH ONE CONTROLLING ONE SMALL PART OF THE BODY'S ACTIVITIES.
THAT'S RIGHT. WHEN A VIRUS INVADES A HOST CELL, IT MAY INCORPORATE ITSELF INTO THE CELL'S CHROMOSOMES.
THE CHROMOSOME IS THE PART OF THE CELL THAT CARRIES INHERITED GENETIC INFORMATION.
MOST CHROMOSOMAL MATERIAL IS THE SAME IN EVERYONE--YOU, ME, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES...
BUT THERE ARE A FEW THAT ARE UNIQUE TO EACH OF US.
FOR EXAMPLE, THE GENES THAT DECIDE THE COLOR OF YOUR HAIR AND EYES, THE COMPLEXION OF YOUR SKIN--THAT KIND OF THING.
THESE ARE GENES YOU INHERIT FROM YOUR PARENTS.
A CHROMOSOME HAS FIFTY OR MORE OF WHAT WE CALL ONCOGENES, WHICH ARE THE GENES THAT TELL A CELL WHAT IT WILL BECOME--SKIN OR BLOOD OR WHATEVER.


A RETROVIRUS MAY HAVE ALMOST IDENTICAL ONCOGENES.
WHEN THE VIRUS REPLICATES ITSELF, IT CAN MODIFY THE CHROMOSOMES OF THE HOST CELL.


THIS CAN CAUSE A SMALL MUTATION, AND THE RESULT IS THAT THE CELL BEGINS TO DIVIDE UNCONTROLLABLY, CAUSING THE GROWTH WE CALL CANCER.

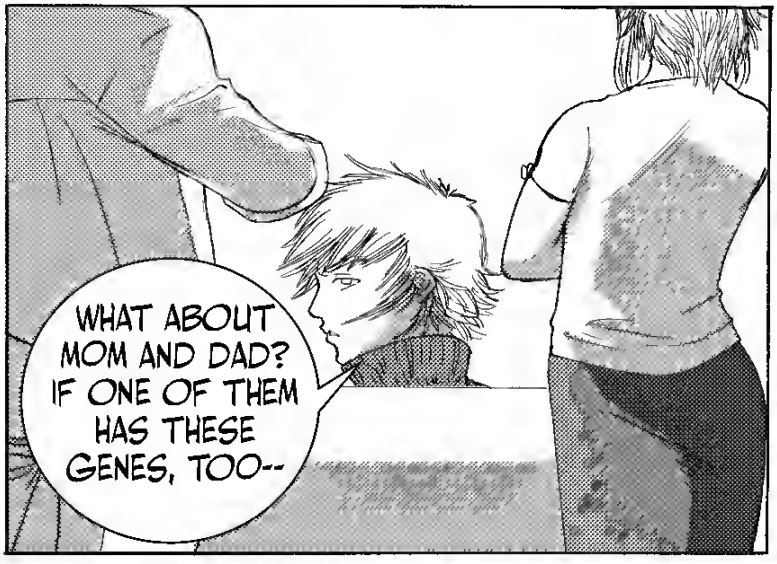
THAT'S WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME.

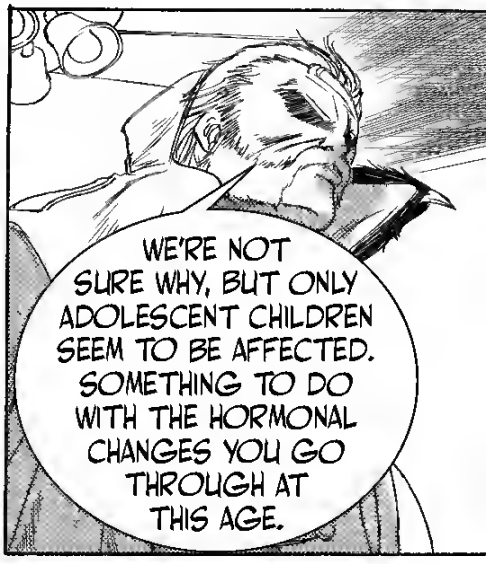
YES, BUT IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. THE QUESTION IS WHY SO FEW PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED BY SKAR.

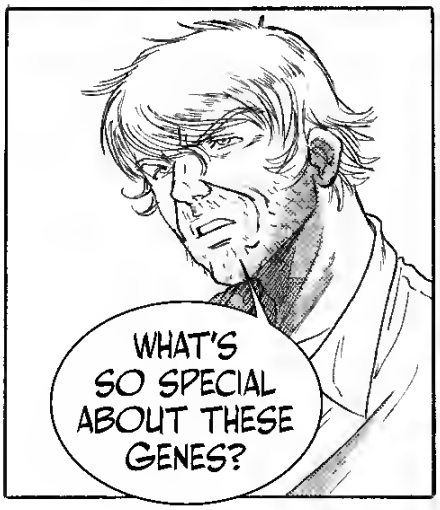

IT SEEMS THAT THIS VIRUS ONLY ATTACKS ONE PARTICULAR KIND OF CELL.
A CELL THAT HAS UNUSUAL GENETIC MATERIAL.

YOU, SAM, HAVE VERY RARE GENES.
LUCKY ME.
THE GENES WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HAVE LAIN DORMANT UNTIL NOW.
THEY DIDN'T ACTUALLY DO ANYTHING, SO NO ONE KNEW YOU HAD THEM.
IT'S TRAGIC THAT THE ONLY REASON WE HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT IT IS BECAUSE YOU AND THE OTHERS LIKE YOU HAVE BECOME ILL.

IT'S ALMOST AS IF NATURE HAS DECIDED YOU SHOULDN'T EXIST.


WHAT ABOUT MOM AND DAD? IF ONE OF THEM HAS THESE GENES, TOO--


WE'RE NOT SURE WHY, BUT ONLY ADOLESCENT CHILDREN SEEM TO BE AFFECTED. SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE HORMONAL CHANGES YOU GO THROUGH AT THIS AGE.

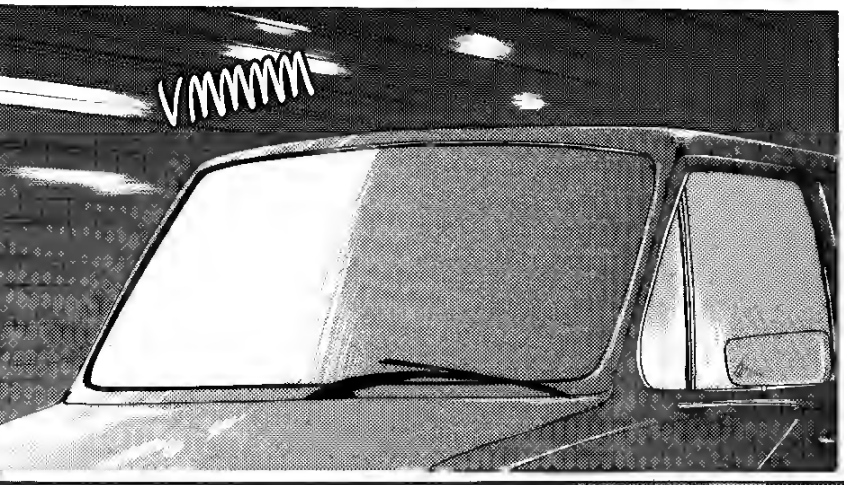

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THESE GENES?

MAYBE YOU CAN ANSWER THAT, SAM.

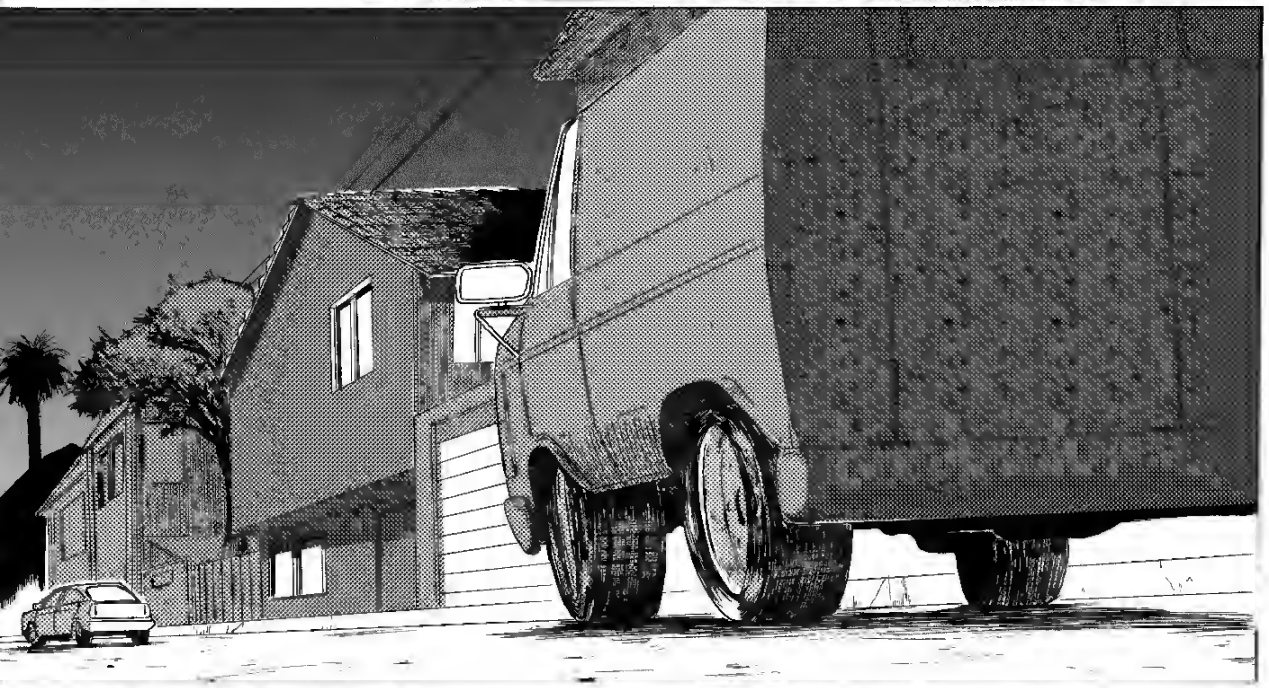
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? I THOUGHT YOU SAID THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING. JUST LAY DORMANT OR WHATEVER.
THEY DID UNTIL THE VIRUS ACTIVATED THEM. THAT LITTLE MUTATION I WAS TALKING ABOUT IS LIKE A TRIGGER.
THOSE CHROMOSOMES HAVE BECOME ACTIVE, SAM.
THERE ARE CELLS IN YOUR BRAIN THAT ARE PERFORMING FUNCTIONS NO HUMAN BEING HAS EVER BEEN CAPABLE OF BEFORE.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE VIRUS HAS ALSO CAUSED THE CELLS TO REPLICATE UNCONTROLLABLY, WHICH MEANS--
THAT I'M GOING TO DIE.

NOT NECESSARILY.
YOU MEAN YOU HAVE A CURE?
SO WHAT'S THE POINT? ALL THE SKAR VICTIMS WILL BE DEAD BY THEN.
THERE WILL BE NO ONE LEFT TO CURE.
NOT YET. IT WILL TAKE ANOTHER TWO OR THREE YEARS.
THERE IS A WAY. NO GUARANTEES, BUT WE MAY HAVE A WAY TO KEEP YOU ALIVE UNTIL THE CURE IS READY.
HAVE YOU HEARD OF CRYOGENICS, SAM?

VMMMM
CHAPTER 4: SHADES


VMMMM

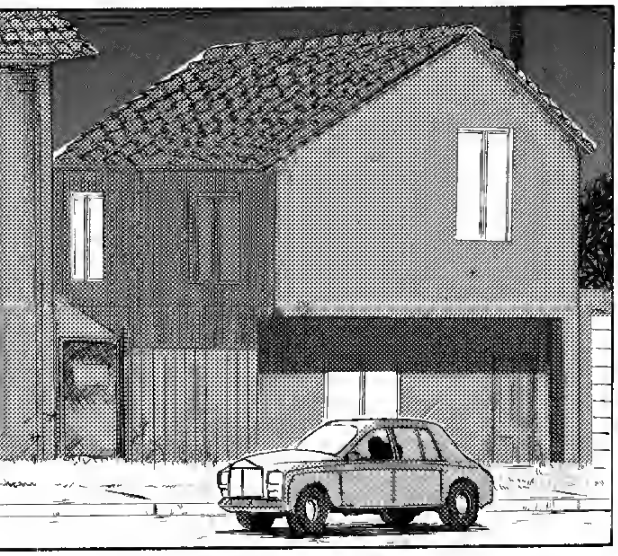
SKREE

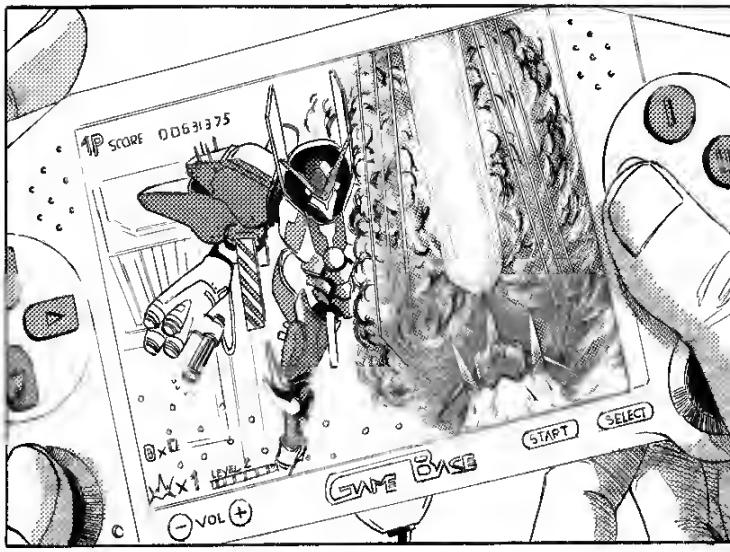


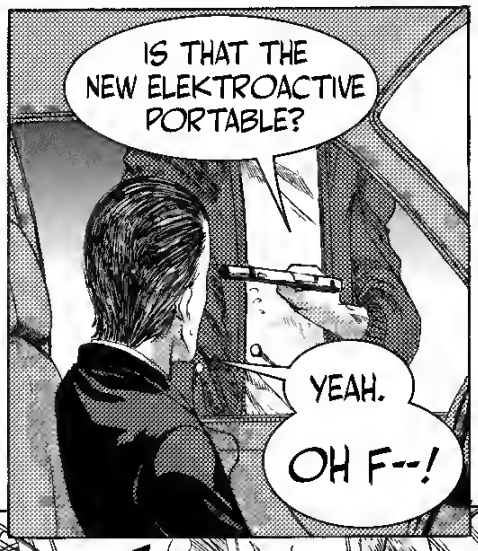
GET READY TO MOVE.
WAIT UP!
SHIT!
THAT CAR OUTSIDE THE CHANCE HOUSE.
THAT'S ONE OF RAVEN'S DRIVERS.

CONTROL, THIS IS SHADOW TEAM ALPHA. RAVEN'S PEOPLE GOT TO THE TARGET FIRST. THEY'RE HERE RIGHT NOW.
DO WE SNATCH OR DISPATCH?
NO, SIR, I HAVE NO ETHICAL PROBLEM WITH THAT.
WE TERMINATE THE KID AND ALL POTENTIAL WITNESSES.
O - KAY...

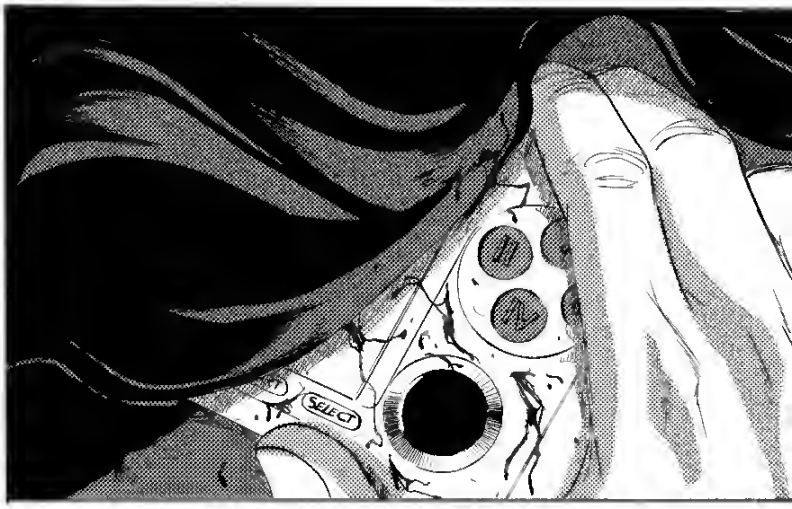
LET'S CLEAN HOUSE.



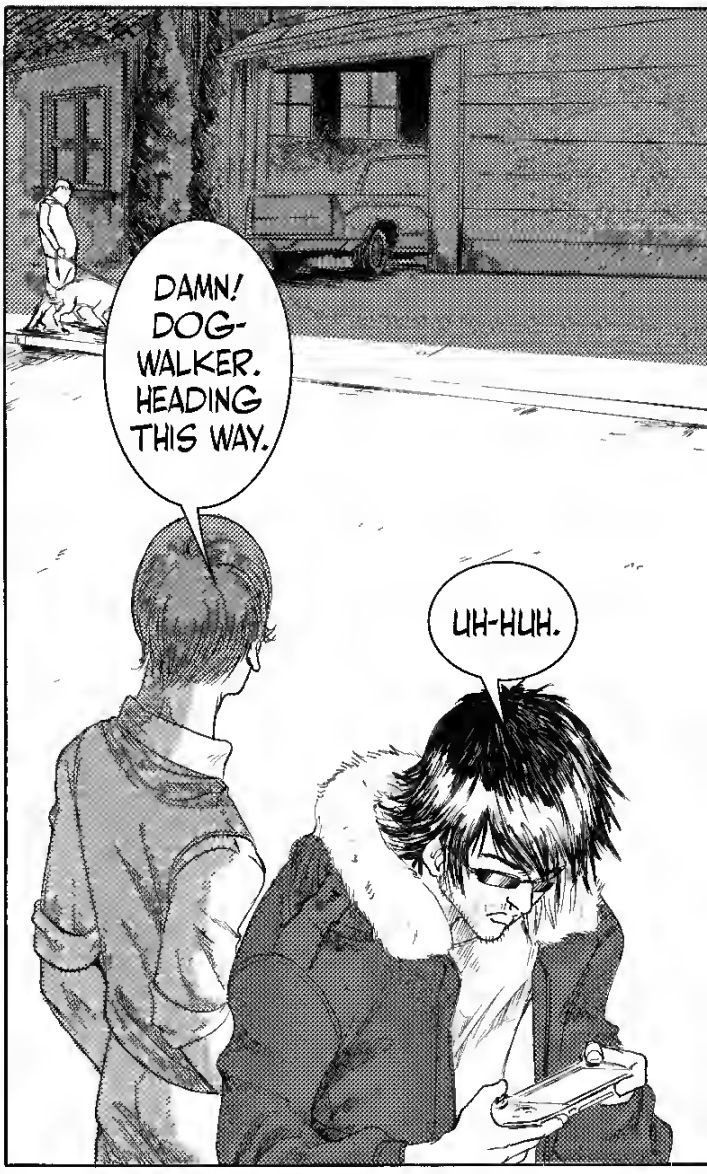

1P SCORE 0063375
GAME BOY
START
SELECT
VOL

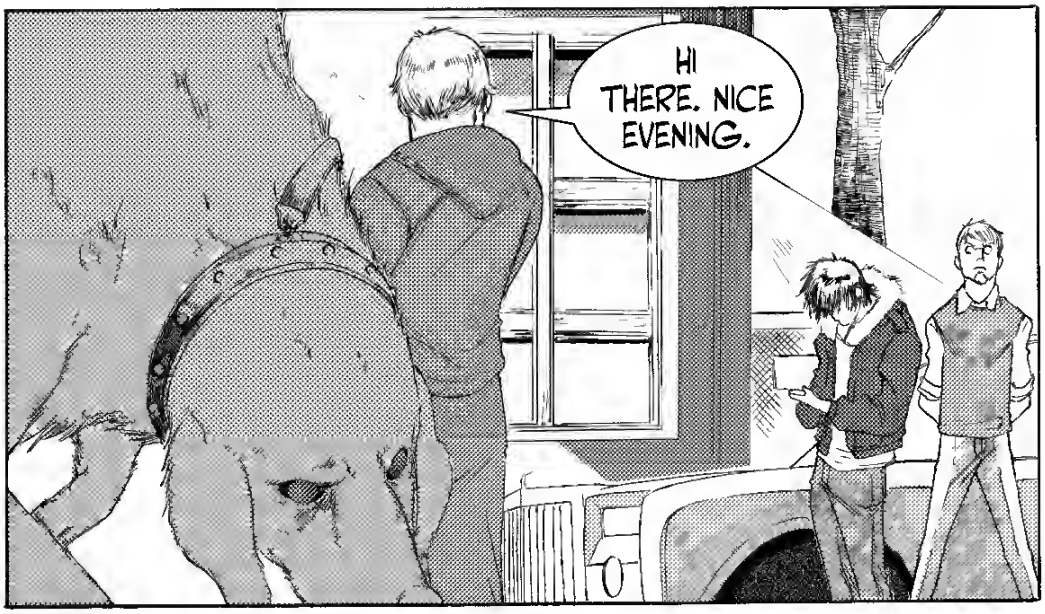

IS THAT THE NEW ELEKTROACTIVE PORTABLE?
YEAH.
OH F--!

PTOW!
UKKK!

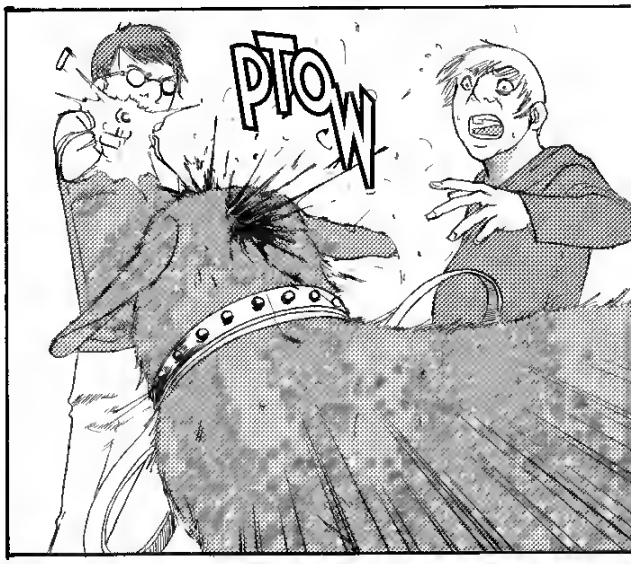

SELECT

COOL.


DAMN! DOG-WALKER. HEADING THIS WAY.
UH-HUH.


HI THERE. NICE EVENING.

CAN I HELP YOU FELLAS WITH ANYTHING?
THE DOG FIRST.


PTOW

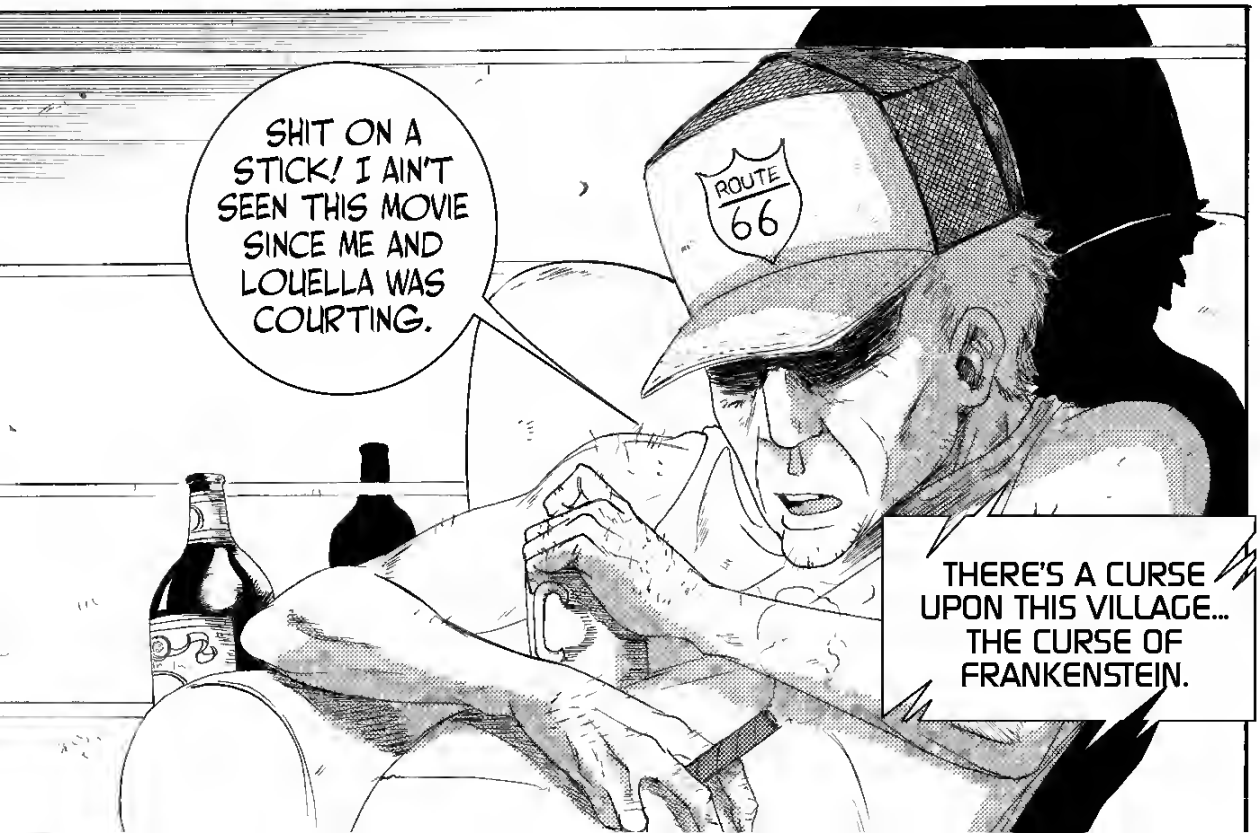
OH GOD.

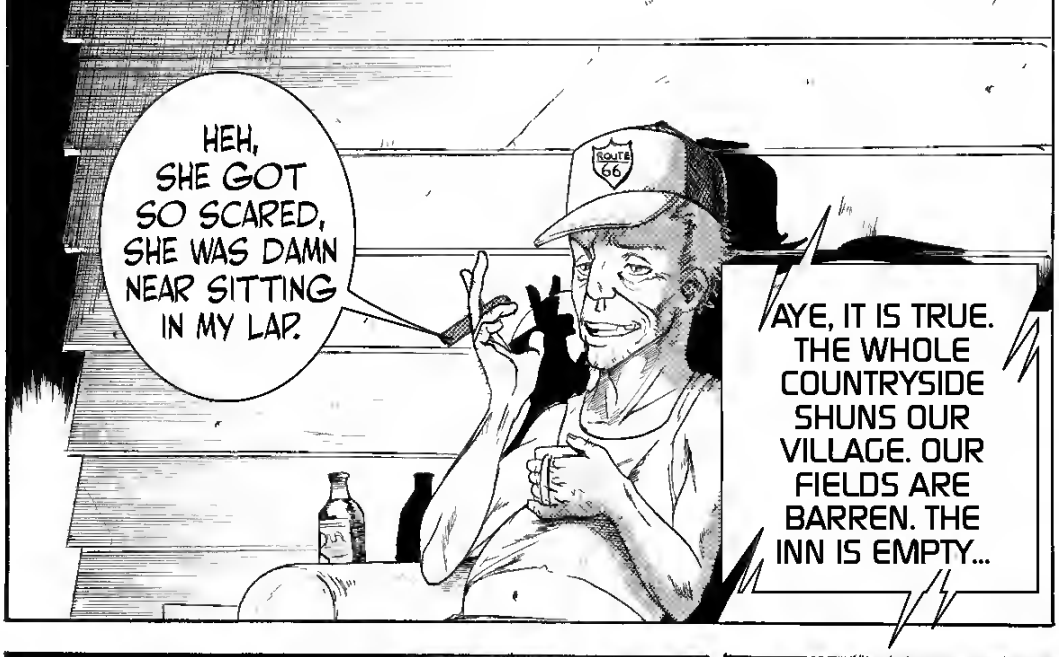
PTOW

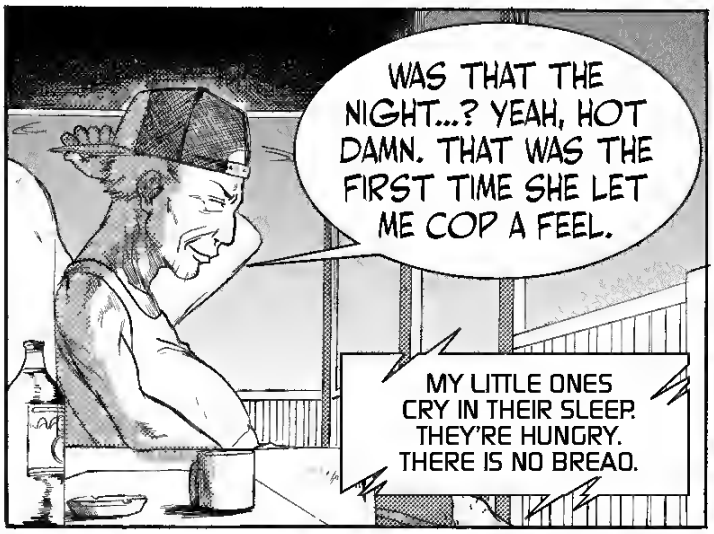
WHAT'S KEEPING THOSE GUYS?

THEY BETTER GET TO IT, OR I'M GONNA GO SHOOT THE OLD FART MYSELF.

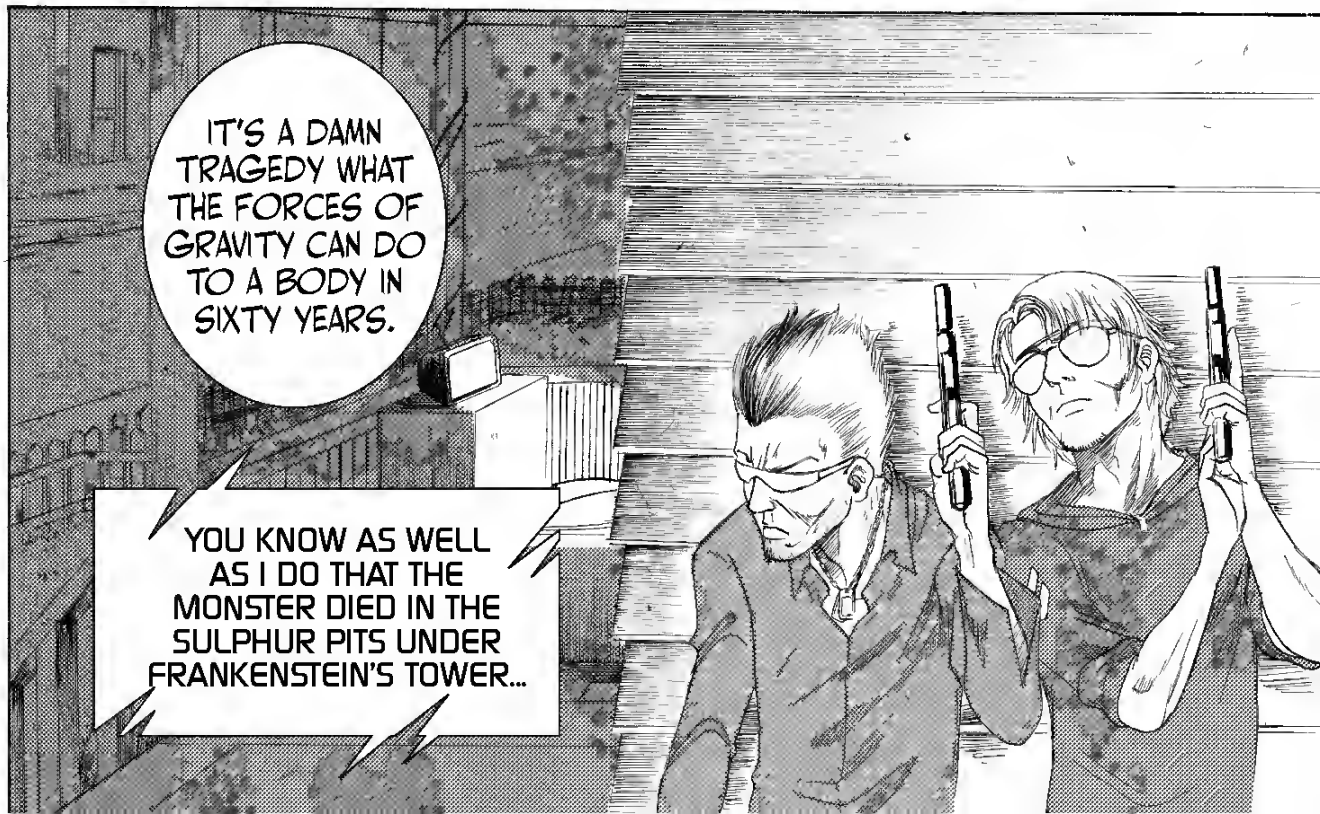
TONIGHT'S MIDNIGHT MOVIE PRESENTATION... THE GHOST OF FRANKENSTEIN.


SHIT ON A STICK! I AIN'T SEEN THIS MOVIE SINCE ME AND LOUELLA WAS COURTING.
ROUTE 66
THERE'S A CURSE UPON THIS VILLAGE... THE CURSE OF FRANKENSTEIN.

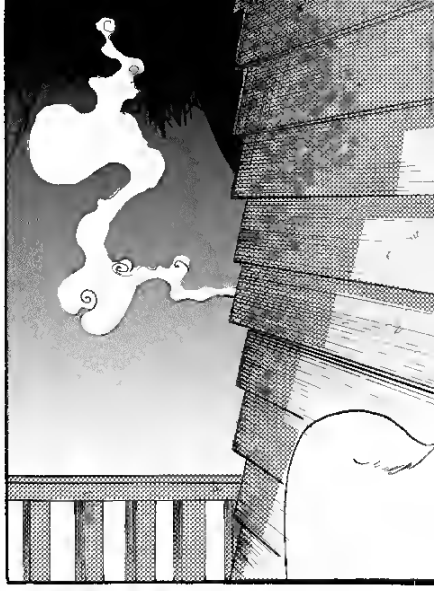

HEH, SHE GOT SO SCARED, SHE WAS DAMN NEAR SITTING IN MY LAP.
ROUTE 66
AYE, IT IS TRUE. THE WHOLE COUNTRYSIDE SHUNS OUR VILLAGE. OUR FIELDS ARE BARREN. THE INN IS EMPTY...

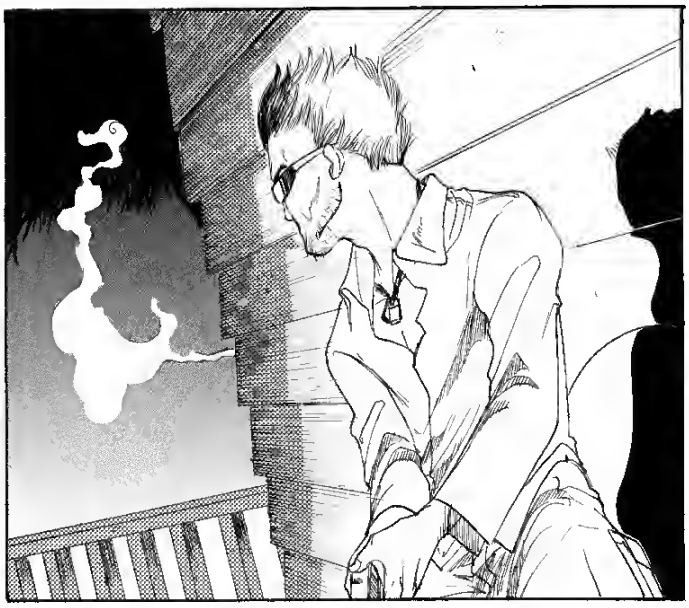

WAS THAT THE NIGHT...? YEAH, HOT DAMN. THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME SHE LET ME COP A FEEL.
MY LITTLE ONES CRY IN THEIR SLEEP. THEY'RE HUNGRY. THERE IS NO BREAD.

HAD A SET OF HOOTERS ON HER BACK THEN COULD MAKE A MAN FORGET HOW TO CHEW GUM.
IT'S THE CURSE! THE CURSE OF FRANKENSTEIN!


IT'S A DAMN TRAGEDY WHAT THE FORCES OF GRAVITY CAN DO TO A BODY IN SIXTY YEARS.
YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT THE MONSTER DIED IN THE SULPHUR PITS UNDER FRANKENSTEIN'S TOWER...

HUH?
...AND THAT YGOR, HIS FAMILIAR, WAS RIDDLED WITH THE BULLETS FROM THE GUN OF BARON FRANKENSTEIN HIMSELF.
GO.
WHA--?
THEY HANGED HIM AND BROKE HIS NECK, BUT HE LIVES!
BUT YGOR DOES NOT DIE THAT EASILY...





OKAY YOU PUNKS...

FREEZE!

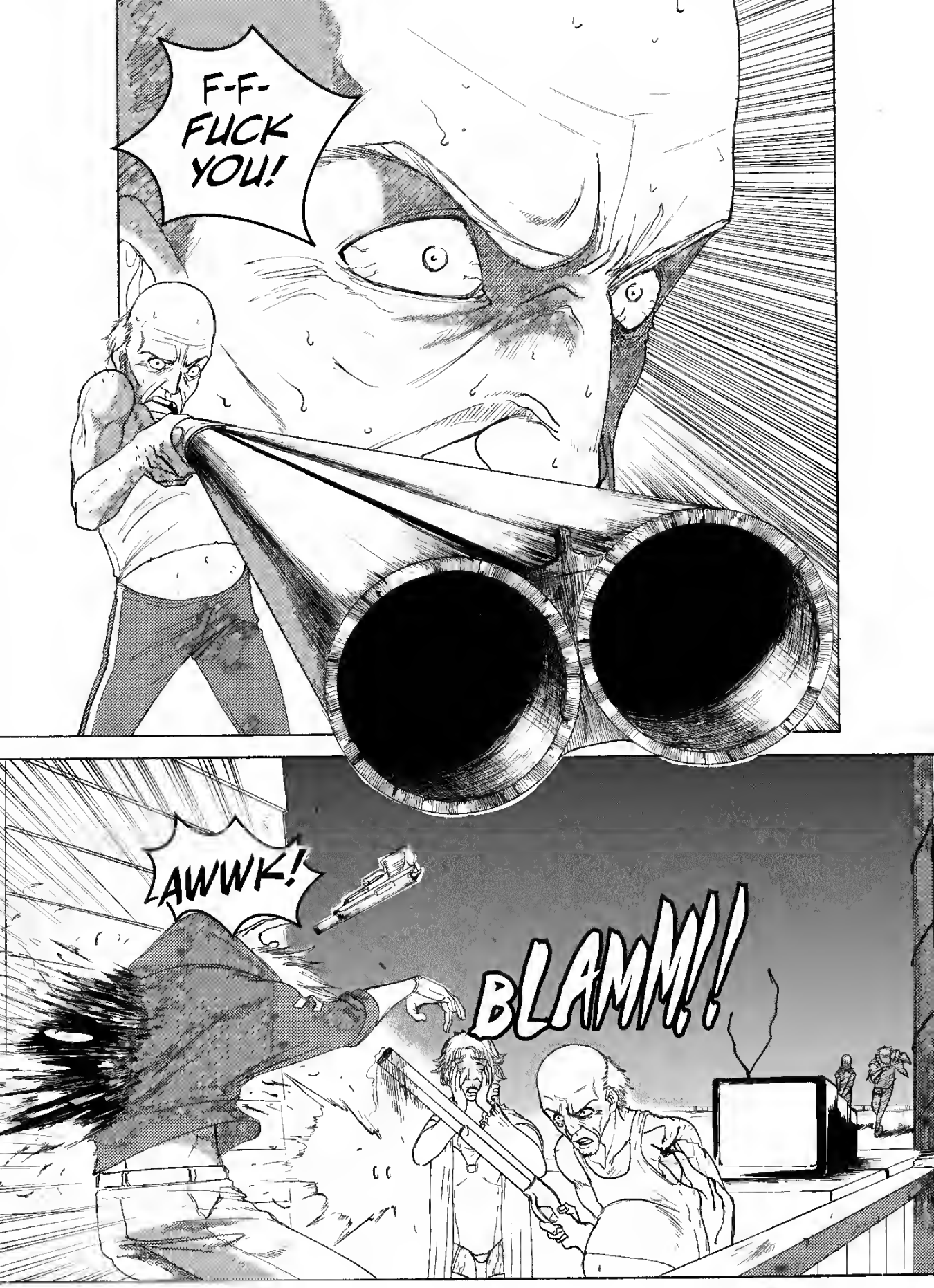
YOU'RE GOING TO *FREEZE* ME?!
ESSENTIALLY, YES.
NO WAY!
I'VE READ ABOUT THIS. IT DOESN'T WORK.
IT'S SCIENCE FICTION.
APPARENTLY, MR. RAVEN'S PEOPLE HAVE DEVELOPED A METHOD THAT *DOES* WORK.

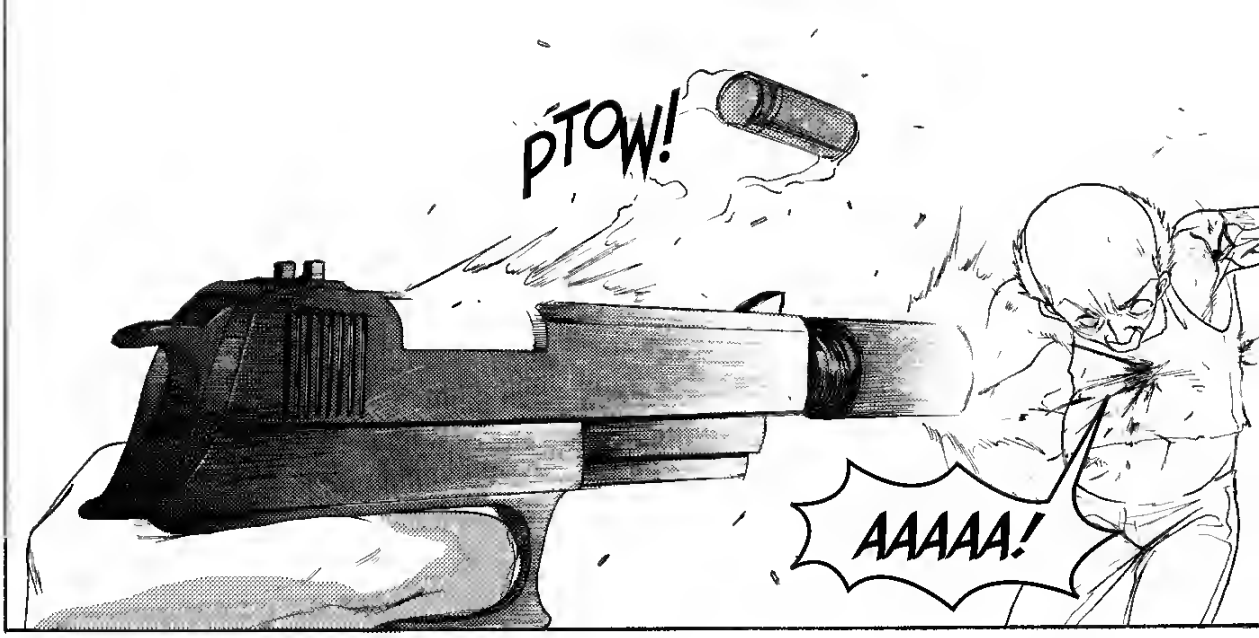
WE'VE HAD A NINETY-EIGHT PERCENT SUCCESS RATE FREEZING RATS, DOGS AND CHIMPANZEES FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS...
...THEN REVIVING THEM WITH NEGLIGIBLE CELLULAR DECAY AND NO DISCERNIBLE BRAIN DAMAGE.
NORMALLY, WE WOULD DO ALL KINDS OF FURTHER TESTS BEFORE ATTEMPTING THE PROCESS ON HUMAN BEINGS, HOWEVER...
WE'RE GOING TO DIE ANYWAY...
TO PUT IT CRUDELY, YES.
SOUNDS LIKE GOOD ODDS TO ME.
...
THERE IS ONE OTHER MINOR OBSTACLE.

WHILE IT IS PERFECTLY LEGAL FOR CONSENTING INDIVIDUALS TO HAVE THEIR BODIES CRYOGENICALLY PRESERVED POSTMORTEM...
...THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOES NOT YET ALLOW THE PROCESS TO BE USED ON LIVING HUMANS.
AND HOW DO YOU GET AROUND THAT?
WE TAKE YOU OUTSIDE OF UNITED STATES JURISDIC-TION.
I CAN'T TELL YOU THE EXACT LOCATION, BUT I CAN PROMISE A PLEASANT, SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR YOU.
SO WHEN DO WE LEAVE?

OKAY, SIR. LET'S NOT DO ANYTHING HASTY.
I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW THIS MUST LOOK TO YOU, BUT IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU MY I.D...
...YOU'LL SEE WE ARE ACTUALLY GOVERNMENT AGENTS.
GOVERNMENT AGENTS?
THE GOVERNMENT CAN KISS MY INCONTINENT ASS!

JESSIE, YOU OLD DAWG, IF YOU'RE STILL FEELING FRISKY, YOU'D BETTER COME AND GET IT WHILE IT'S...
...HOT?
DAMMIT, LOUELLA!
PTOW!
UNNFF!


F-F-
FUCK
YOU!
AWWK!
BLAMM!!


PTOW!
AAAAA!

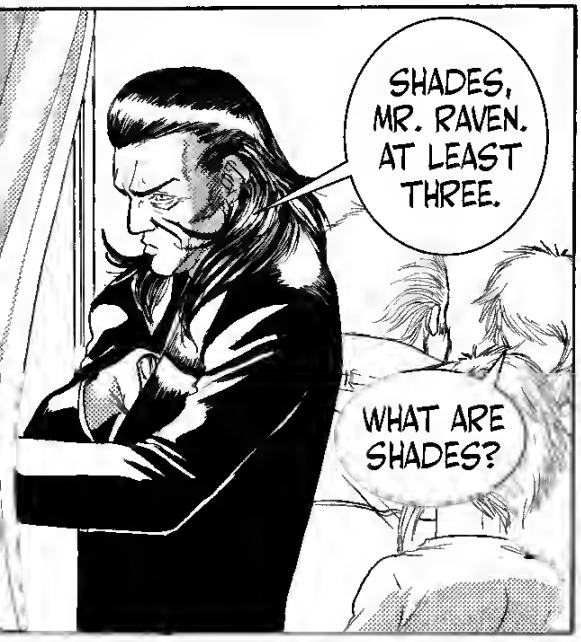
JESSIE?
YOU'RE... STILL A...FINE L-LOOKING WOMAN...LOU-LOUELLA...

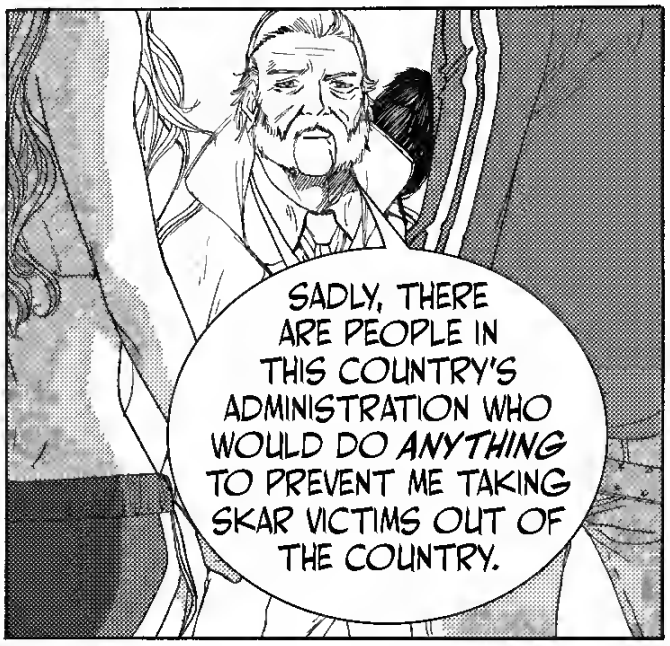
...DAMN... FUH... FINE...

I'LL KILL YOU! YOU GODDAMNED COCK-SUCKING MOTHERF--
PTOW!
PTOW!
PTOW!
PTOW!
PTOW!

THE LIGHTNING IS GOOD FOR YOU! YOUR FATHER WAS FRANKENSTEIN...
YOUR MOTHER WAS LIGHT--
KRASH!
PTOW!
THIS IS GETTING TOO MESSY. I'M GOING TO ABORT.

DAMN!


SHADES, MR. RAVEN. AT LEAST THREE.
WHAT ARE SHADES?

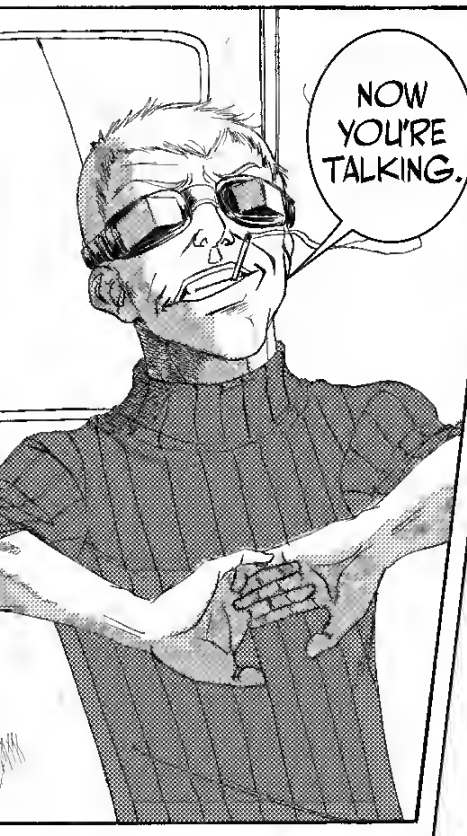

SADLY, THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY'S ADMINISTRATION WHO WOULD DO *ANYTHING* TO PREVENT ME TAKING SKAR VICTIMS OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

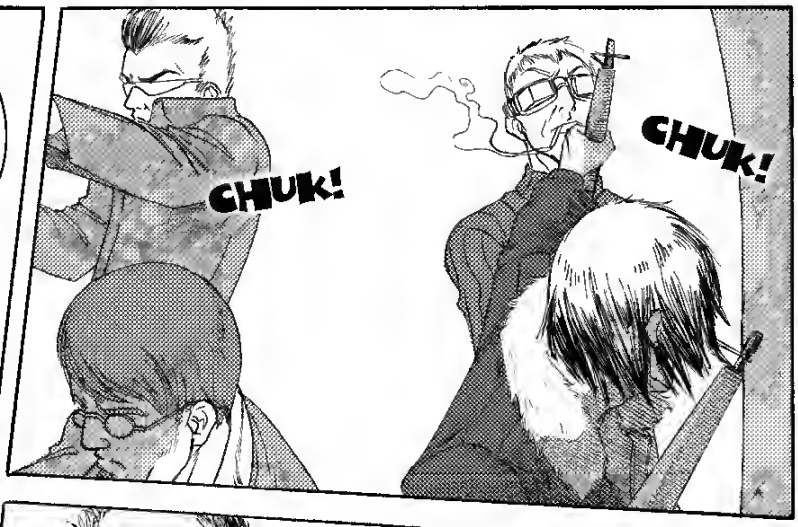
WHEN THEIR METHODS INVOLVE VIOLATING THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION...
...THEY USE SHADES.
NO, NO! THIS IS TOO UNREAL.
WHY WOULD THE GOVERNMENT BE INTERESTED IN SAM?
WHY ARE YOU SO INTERESTED...
MOM. I KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.
...AND DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE CONCERNED FOR SAM'S WELFARE, BECAUSE I JUST DON'T BUY THAT.
I HAVE TO DO THIS.

PLEASE TRUST ME. I'LL COME BACK.
TWO YEARS ISN'T THAT LONG.
STAY WITH DAD... HE NEEDS YOU.
MR. RAVEN, WE HAVE TO GO.
NOW.

THEY'RE COMING OUT!
THAT'S HENRY RAVEN!
CONTROL, WE ARE EXPOSED. WE HAVE ONE CASUALTY.
YES. UNDER-STOOD, BUT RAVEN IS HERE. RAVEN HIMSELF.
I AGREE. THIS IS TOO GOOD TO PASS UP.

CONTROL WANTS THEM ALL TAKEN DOWN...
...BY WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY.


NOW YOU'RE TALKING.


CHUK!
CHUK!

MR. RAVEN, I'M NOT SURE I CAN DEAL WITH THIS!

SAM, THOSE MEN ARE ABOUT TO SHOOT US.
I SUGGEST YOU *DO* SOMETHING.
BRAKA-BRAKA-BRAKA

SAM...

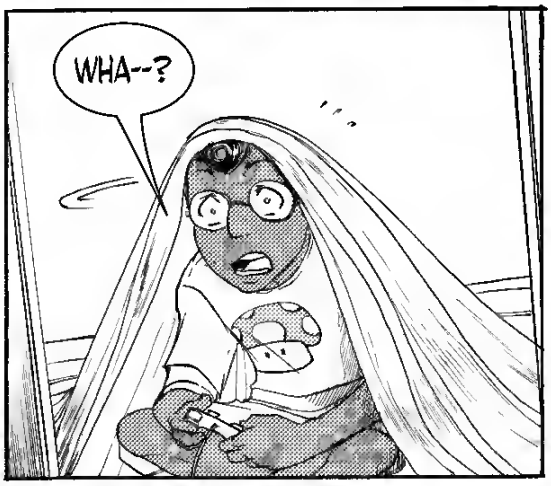
KROO-AAAA
THANK YOU, SAM.
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S IT! TIME TO GET SERIOUS!

WHUMMPP!!

CONTROL. THIS ONE IS UNBELIEVABLE! WE CAN'T TAKE HIM OUT.
WELL, WE USED A FUCKING ROCKET LAUNCHER!
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE US TO TRY?!
THEY WOULD HAVE KILLED US ALL, SAM. YOUR PARENTS AND YOUR GIRLFRIEND, TOO.
THEY'LL COME BACK AND TRY AGAIN.
DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY, SAM.

RESISTANCE IS FUTILE
STAR WARS
TAKING TOO MUCH HEAT FROM THAT HEAVY ARMOR.
TIME TO CALL IN AN ARTILLERY STRIKE.

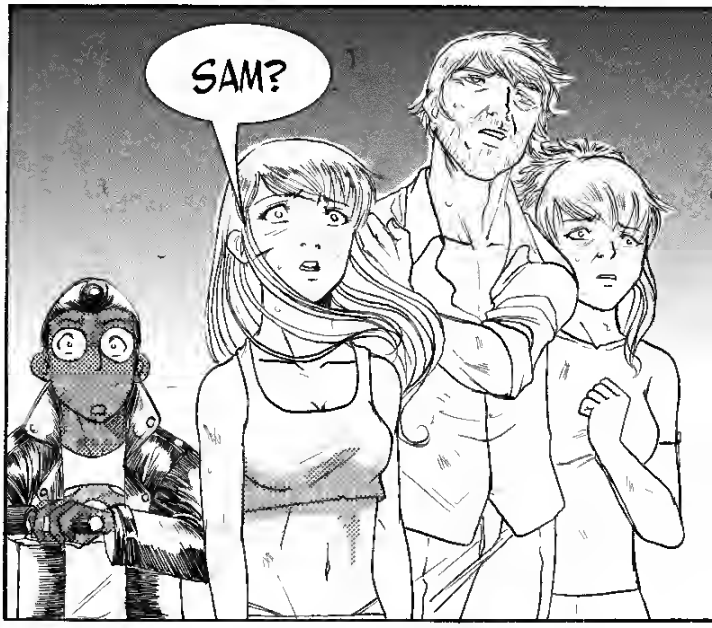
AND THAT SPELLS ENDSVILLE FOR YOU SUCKERS!
WHUMMMPP!!

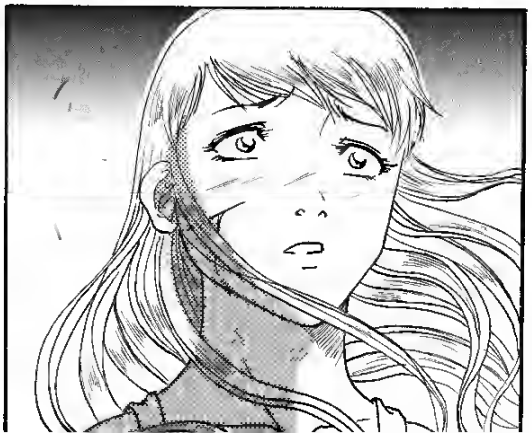

WHA--?

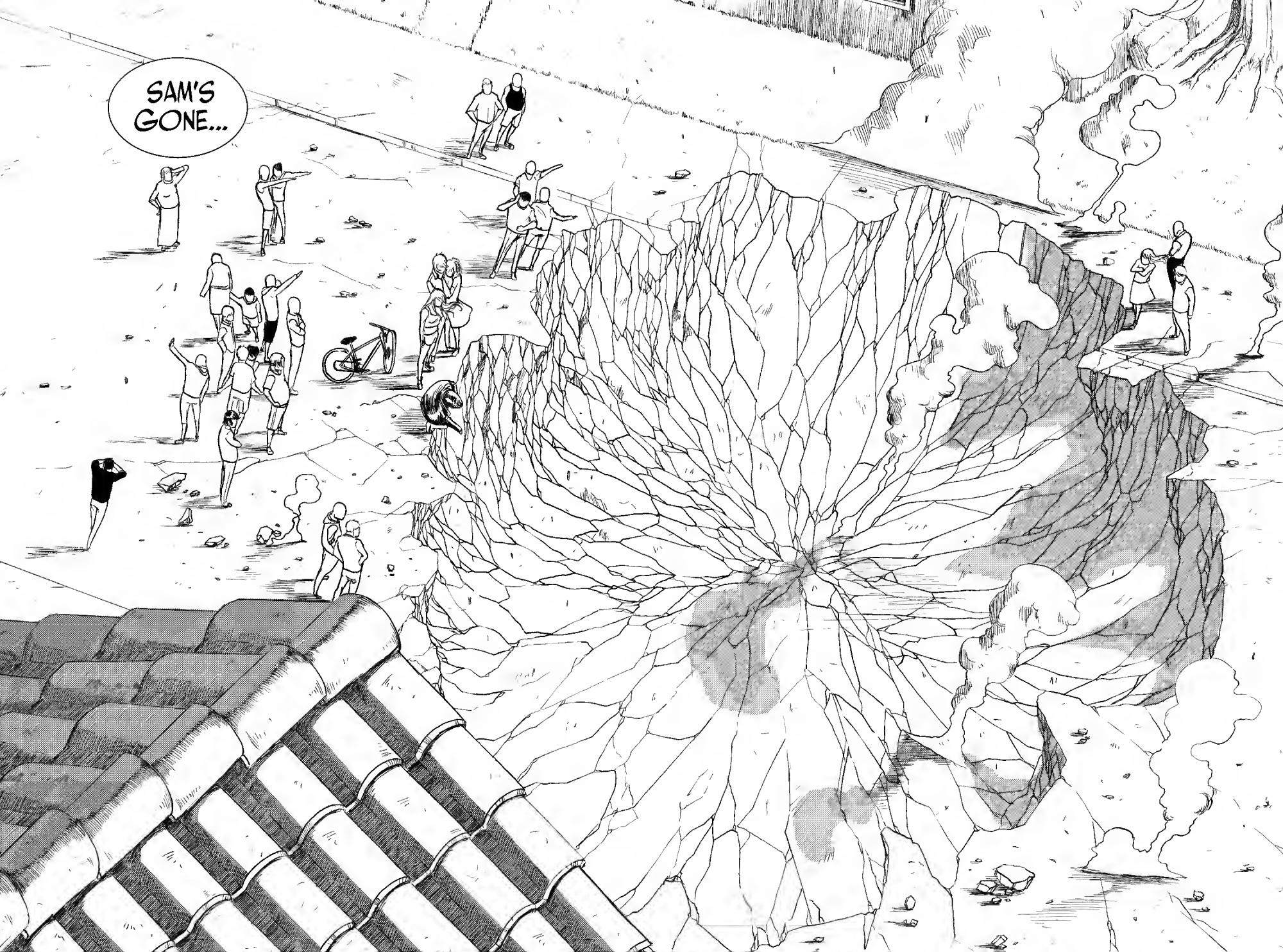
OH, CRAP! THAT'S SAM'S PLACE!

GANGWAY!
MOVE IT OR LOSE IT, PEOPLE!

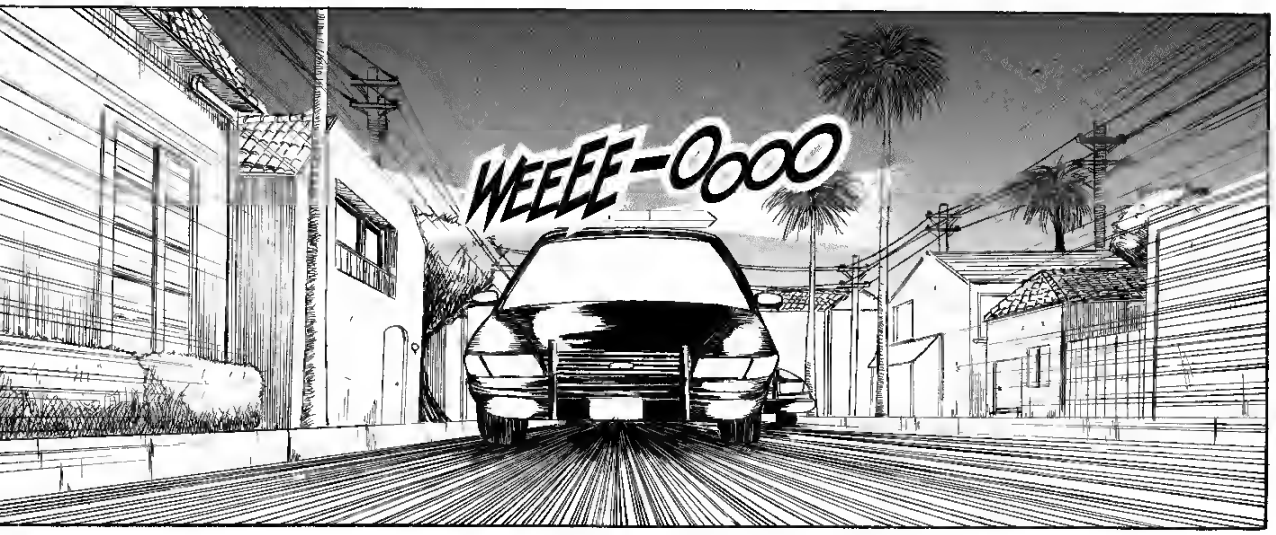
DONNA!
DONNA, WHERE'S SAM?

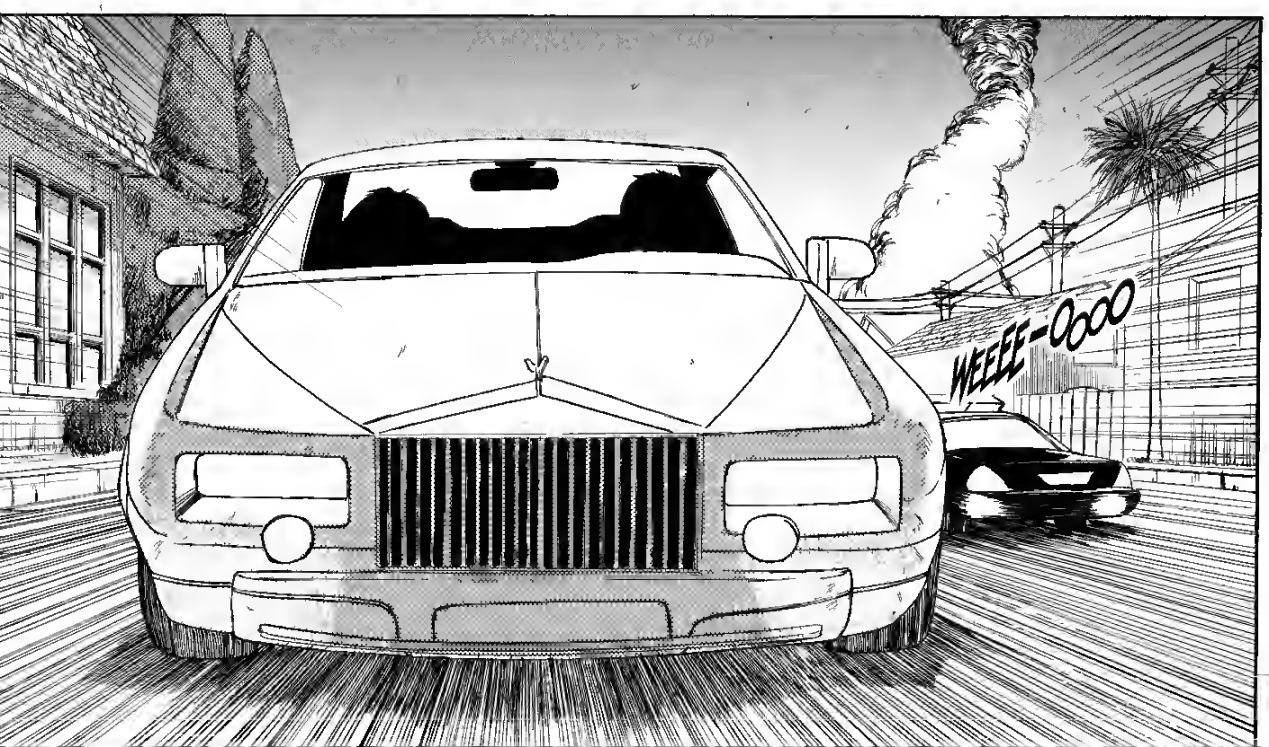

SAM?




SAM'S GONE...

CHAPTER 5: INTO THE BLACK



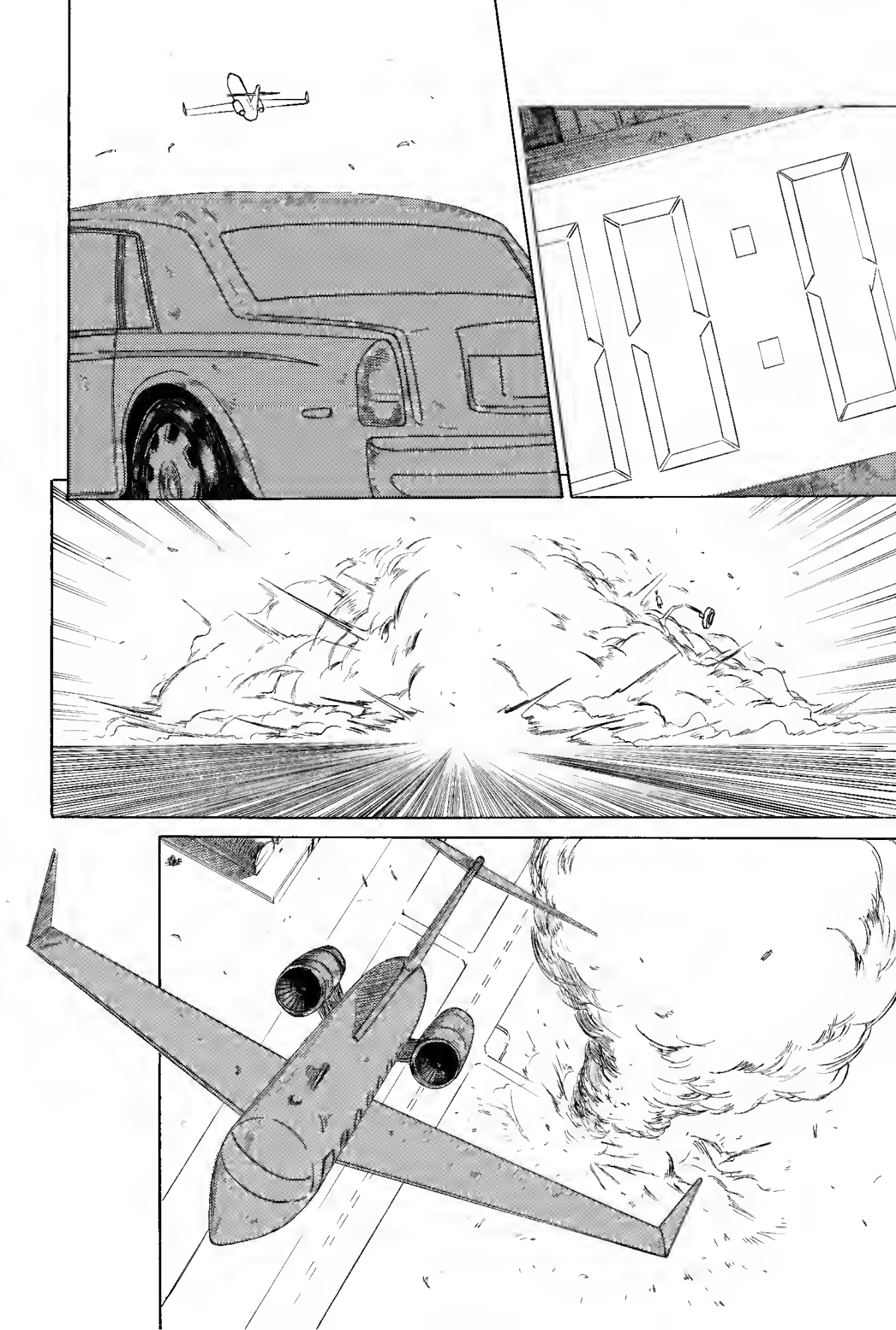


KROo-AAAA

BRYSON, WE HAVE A CODE-ZETA SITUATION.
WORST-CASE SCENARIO.

NO! BRING THEM WITH YOU.
THEY DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, BRYSON. THIS IS NOT A FALSE ALARM.
I'LL EXPECT ALL THE SUBJECTS TO...

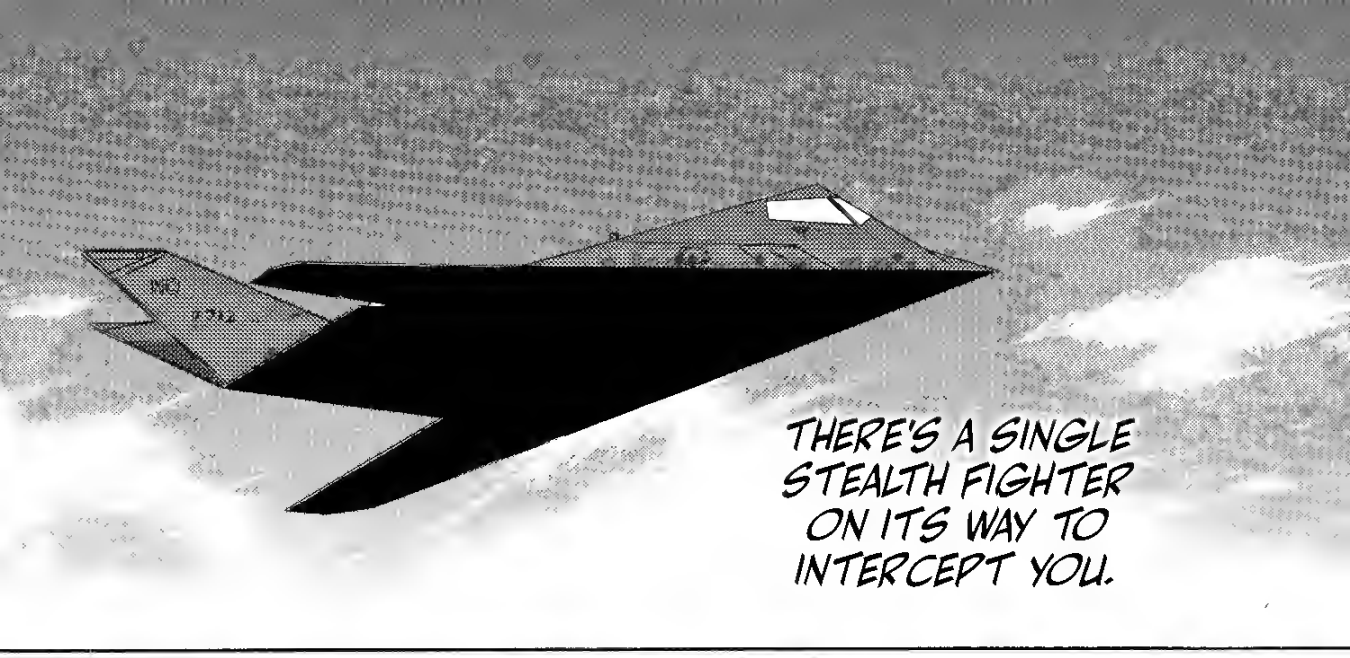
NEARLY THERE... NOW SAM, TRY TO HOLD ON.



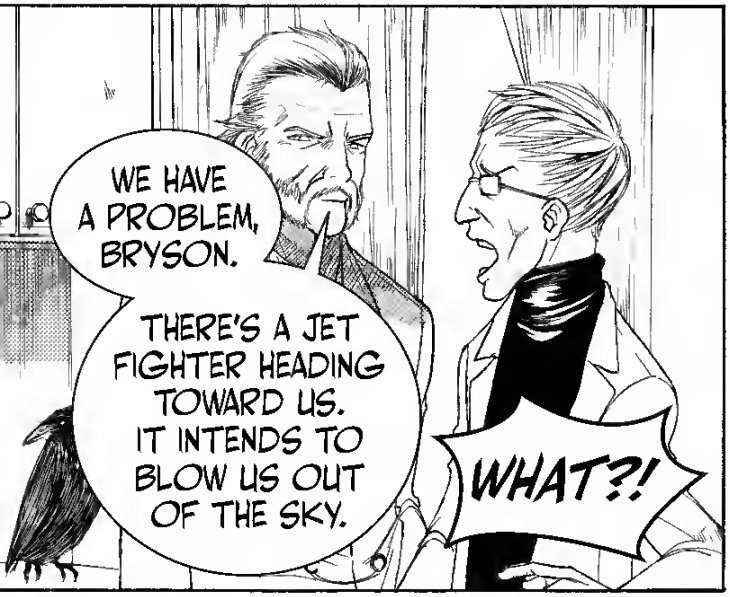
ARE YOU AWAKE, SAM?
NO, I'M HAVING A NIGHT-MARE.
A NIGHTMARE WHERE I KILL PEOPLE.

YOU SAVED OUR LIVES. ME, YOUR PARENTS, YOUR GIRL-FRIEND.
WILL THEY COME BACK FOR MOM AND DAD?
NO. THEY'LL HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE SPINNING TONIGHT'S LITTLE DEBACLE INTO A STORY THE MEDIA WILL SWALLOW.
YOU DID WELL TONIGHT, SAM. BUT I MUST WARN YOU, THESE SIDE EFFECTS--THE NOSEBLEEDS, THE BLACKOUTS. THEY'RE WARNINGS.
THEY'LL STAY AWAY FROM YOUR FAMILY FROM NOW ON.
THE MORE YOU USE YOUR NEW ABILITIES, THE FASTER THE VIRUS WILL PROGRESS.
I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO DIE ON ME, SAM.
BRRIP BRRIP

EXCUSE ME. I HAVE TO TAKE THIS.
RAVEN.
YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS?
OF COURSE.
YOU WENT TOO FAR LAST NIGHT.
DON'T WORRY. WE'RE ALREADY LEAVING.
YES. YOU'RE HEADING FOR CUBA. AND I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE THAT IF I KNOW, *THEY* KNOW.
THEY ALSO KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE ON BOARD.
YOU WON'T BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE U.S. AIR-SPACE.

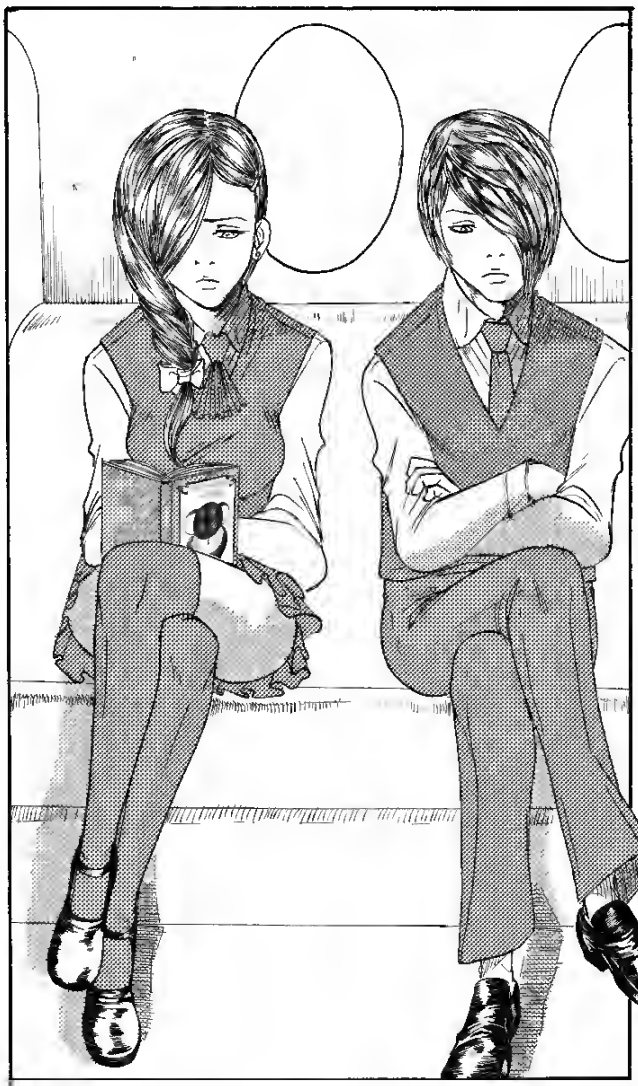

THERE'S A SINGLE STEALTH FIGHTER ON ITS WAY TO INTERCEPT YOU.

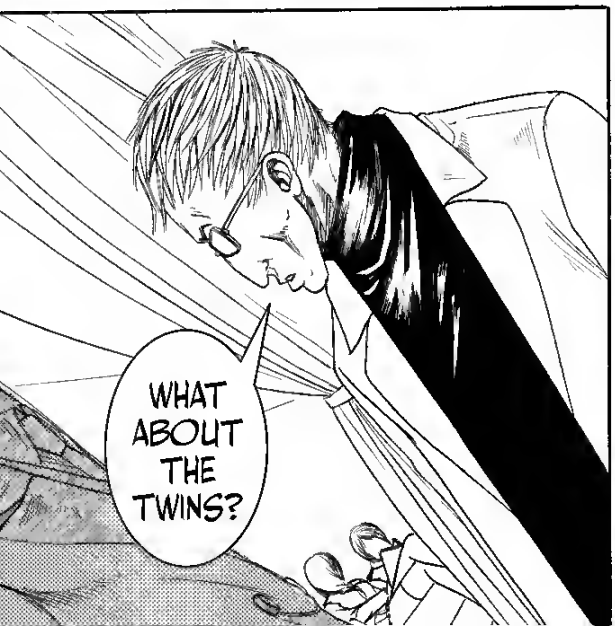
IT WILL BE PUT DOWN TO A TERRORIST ATTACK. RETALIATION FOR YOUR INVESTING IN IRAQ.
I'VE WITHDRAWN MY INVESTMENTS FROM IRAQ.
FOR THAT THEN.
HOW LONG DO WE HAVE?
TEN MINUTES. GIVE OR TAKE.
YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS THE LAST TIME YOU WILL HEAR FROM ME, REGARD-LESS OF WHAT HAPPENS.
THIS CALL CANCELS ALL DEBTS.


WE HAVE A PROBLEM, BRYSON.
THERE'S A JET FIGHTER HEADING TOWARD US. IT INTENDS TO BLOW US OUT OF THE SKY.
WHAT?!

WE NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE IT OUT.
SHIT! SHIT! SHIT!

WHO DO WE HAVE ON BOARD WHO CAN DO THAT?
I DON'T KNOW.




WHAT ABOUT THE TWINS?

I DON'T WANT TO RISK THEM.
GINJI HINO COULD DO IT, BUT THE EFFORT WOULD PROBABLY KILL HIM.
HINO IS EXPENDABLE.
WHY IS HE STARING AT US?
CAN HE HEAR US?

GINJI.
YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE MET? I TOLD YOU THAT YOU CAN BE AS GOOD AS ANYONE ELSE, NO MATTER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE.
NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO PROVE ME RIGHT. I NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.
THERE'S A PLANE APPROACHING. CAN YOU SEE IT?
YES, MR. RAVEN?
YES. IT'S CLOSE.
I WANT YOU TO MAKE IT CRASH.
BUT YOU SAID USING MY POWERS WOULD MAKE ME SICK.
WE HAVE DOCTORS TO LOOK AFTER YOU. IT'S IMPORTANT, GINJI. THAT PLANE WILL SHOOT US DOWN.
EVERY-ONE HERE IS DEPENDING ON YOU.

ALL RIGHT. I'LL TRY.
UNNNGGHH
NNNGGH-AAAA...
AAAAARRRR...
HE CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

NO, SAM.
I'M STRONGER.
GO AND SIT DOWN. GINJI CAN HANDLE THIS.
BECAUSE HE'S EXPEND-ABLE AND I'M NOT?
WHAT DO I DO?
CAN YOU SEE IT IN YOUR HEAD?
YES.

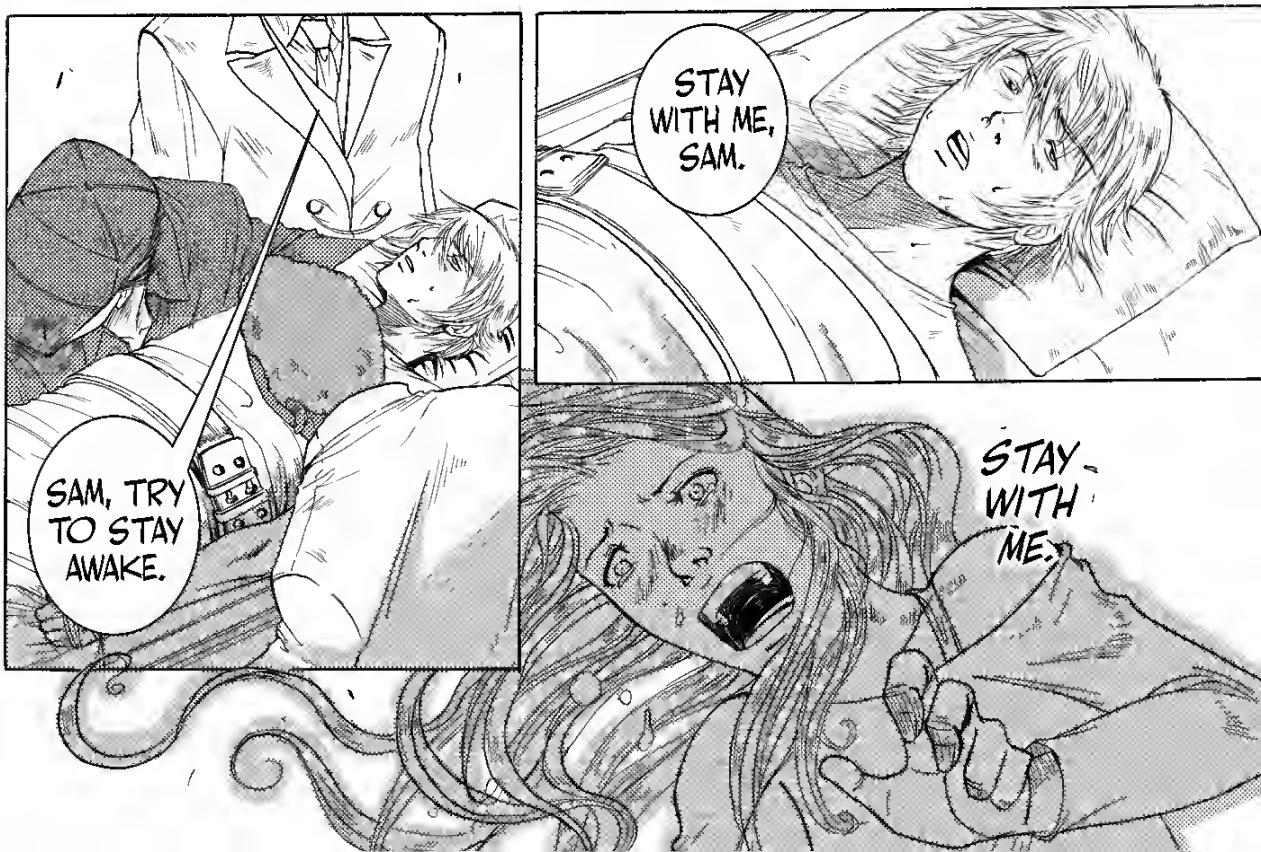
PICTURE IT FALLING APART.
CONTROL, I'M EXPERIENCING TURBULENCE. NEVER FUH-FELT ANYTHING LUH-LIKE THIS.
LAUNCH MISSILES!
I'M ABORT-ING THE MISSION.
DO NOT ABORT. REPEAT: DO NOT ABORT.

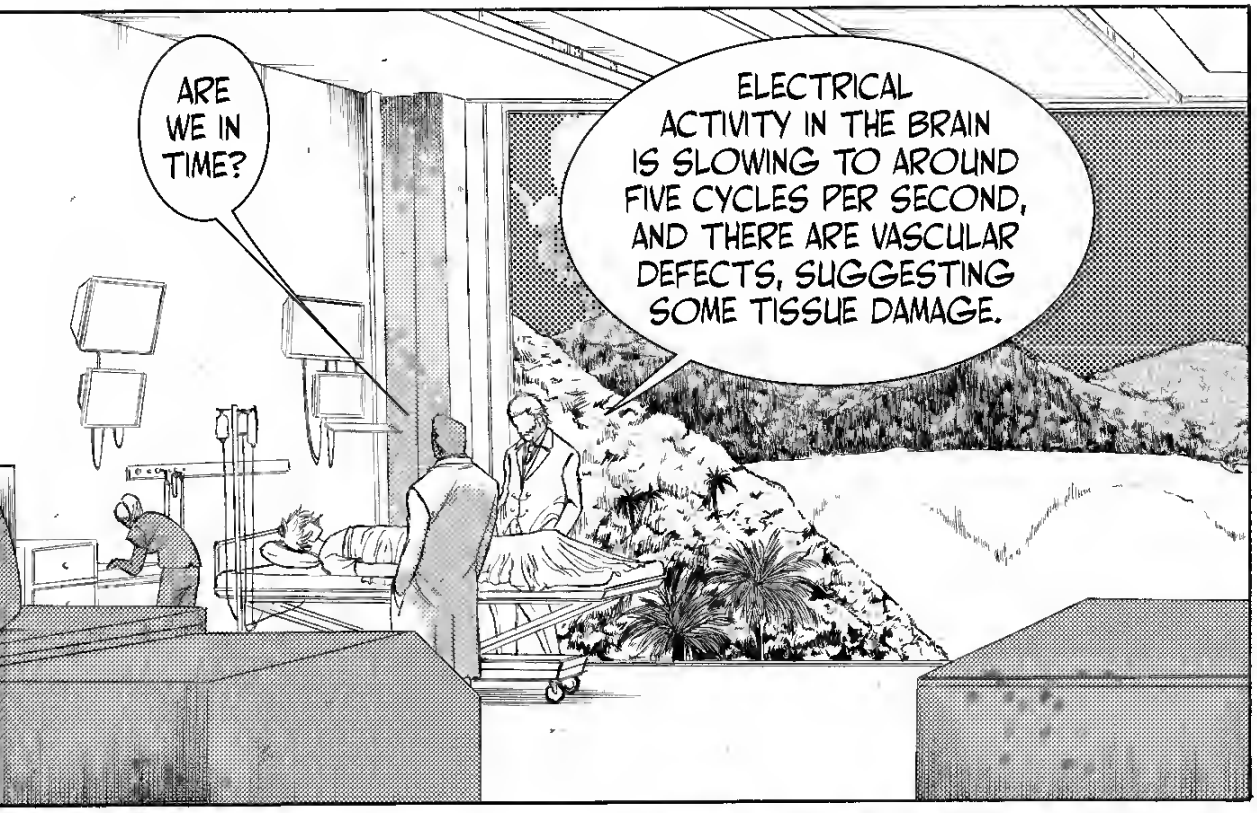
WHUMP!!
AAAAHH!
AIEEE!

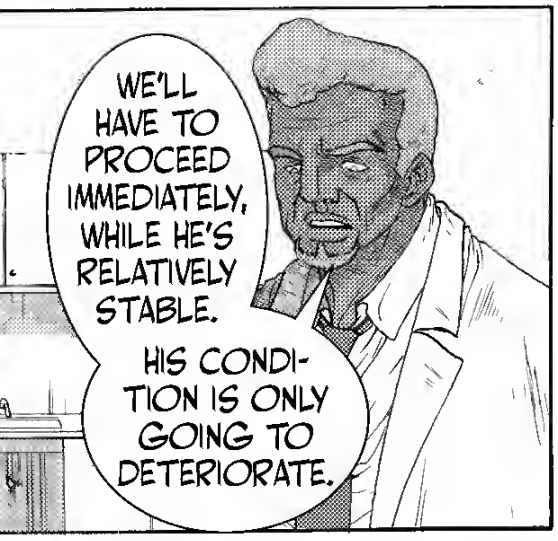
IS IT DONE?
...M-MISSILES... IT FIRED MISSILES...

OH MY GOD... OH MY GOD...

CUBA--EAST OF CIENFUEGOS
SKREE
WEE-OOO
WEE-OOO
AMBULANCIA


SAM, TRY TO STAY AWAKE.
STAY WITH ME, SAM.
STAY WITH ME.


ARE WE IN TIME?
ELECTRICAL ACTIVITY IN THE BRAIN IS SLOWING TO AROUND FIVE CYCLES PER SECOND, AND THERE ARE VASCULAR DEFECTS, SUGGESTING SOME TISSUE DAMAGE.

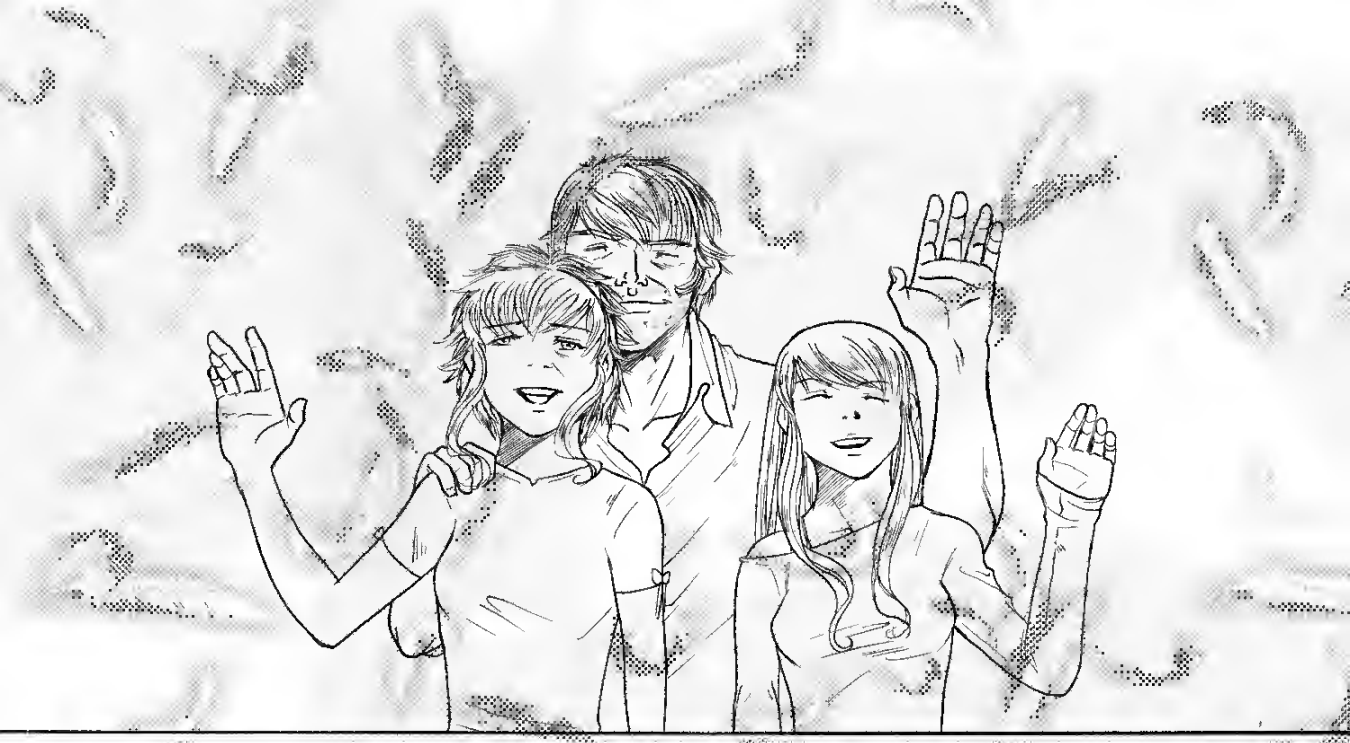

WE'LL HAVE TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY, WHILE HE'S RELATIVELY STABLE.
HIS CONDITION IS ONLY GOING TO DETERIORATE.

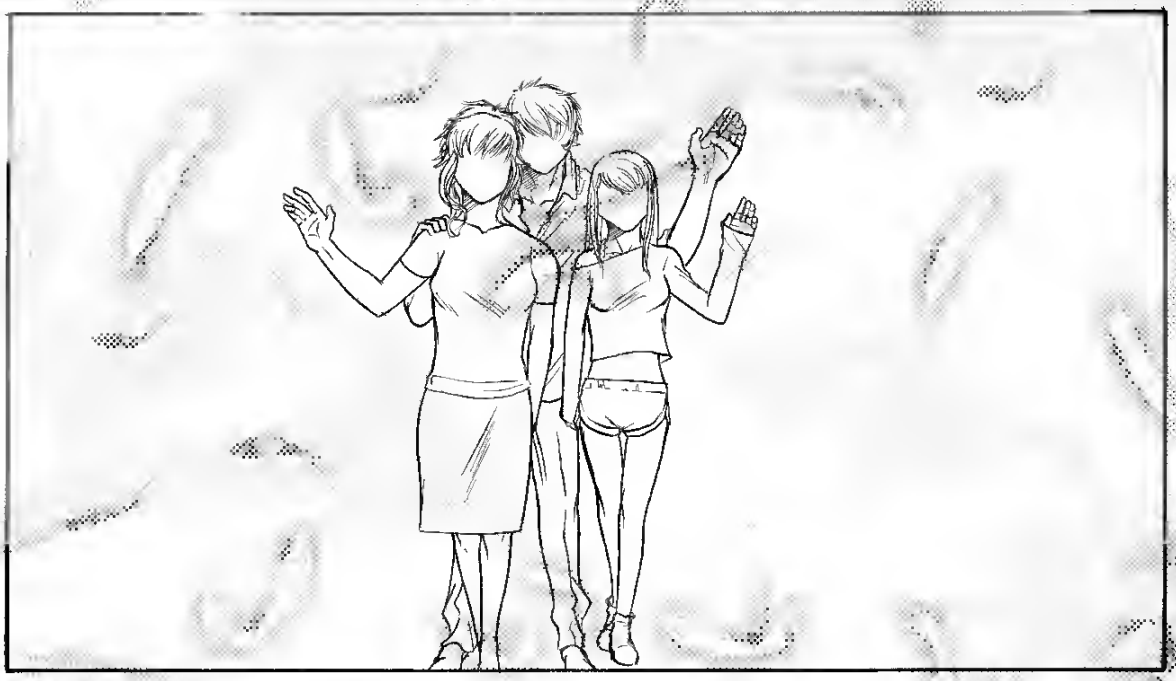
IS THIS IT? YOU'RE GOING TO FREEZE ME?

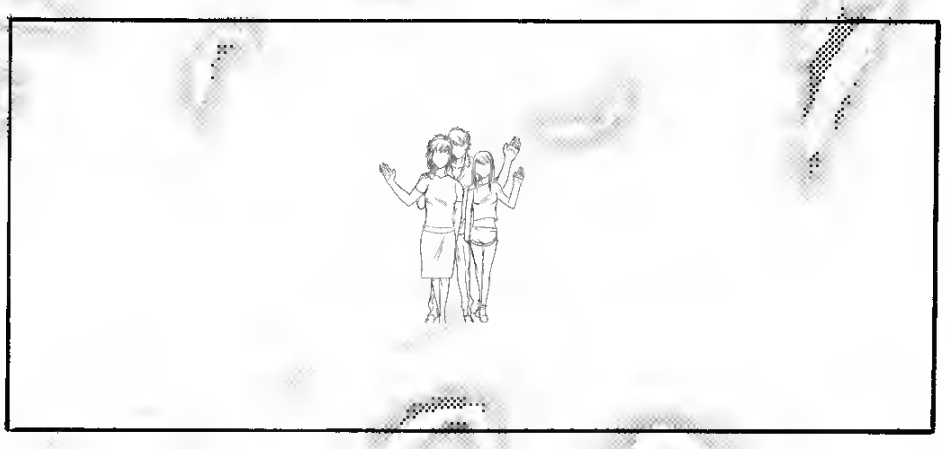
DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE GOING TO BE FINE, SAM.

WE'RE VERY CLOSE TO BEATING THE SKAR VIRUS.
WHEN YOU WAKE, YOU'LL BE CURED, AND YOU CAN GET ON WITH YOUR LIFE.
YOU'LL SLEEP FOR A LITTLE WHILE. TWO YEARS AT MOST.
TWO YEARS IS A *LITTLE* WHILE?
YOU WON'T BE AWARE OF THE TIME PASSING. YOU WON'T EVEN DREAM.
IT WILL PASS IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

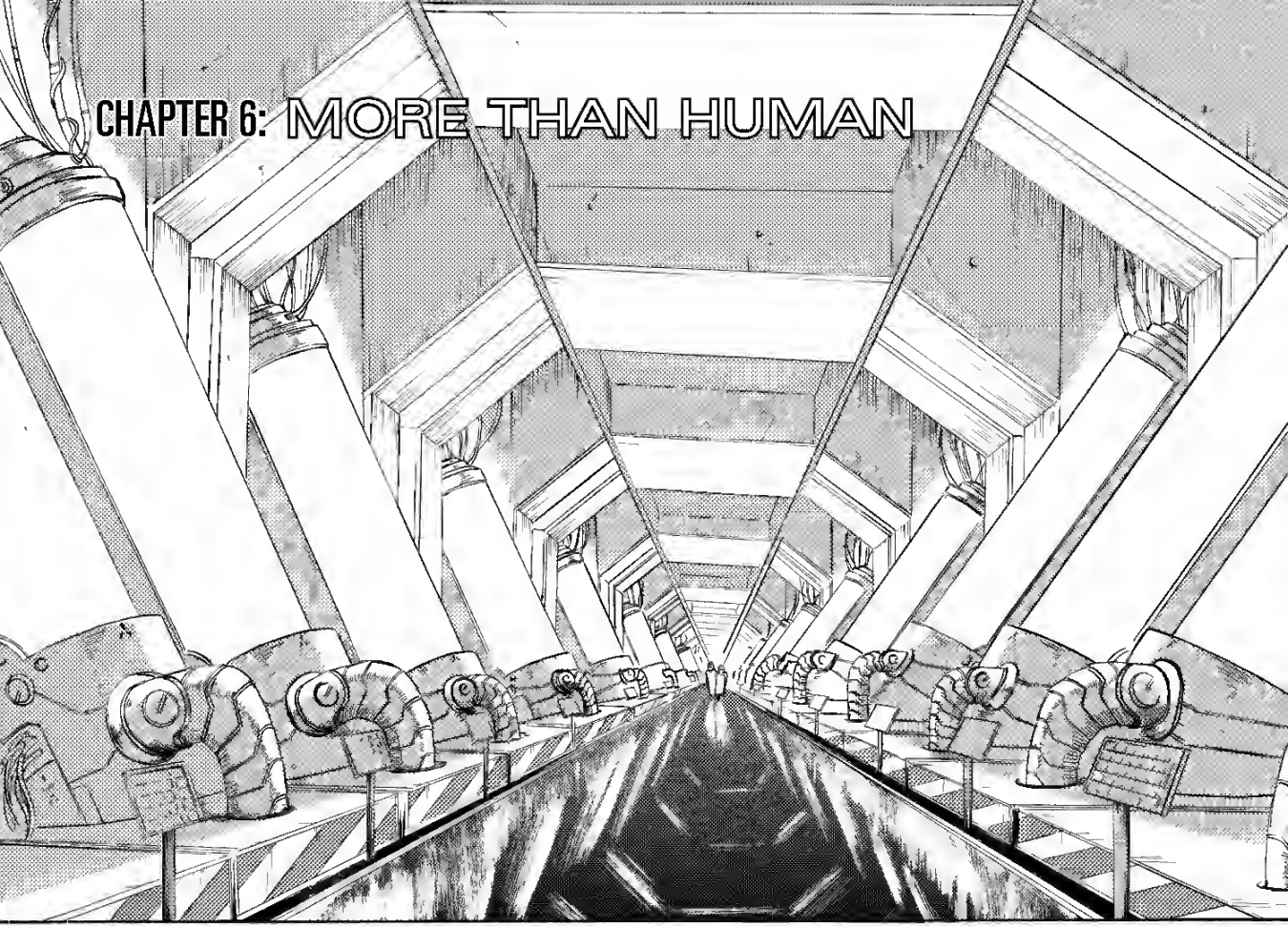
TELL MY PARENTS...AND DONNA...
YES?
TELL THEM...
TELL THEM...

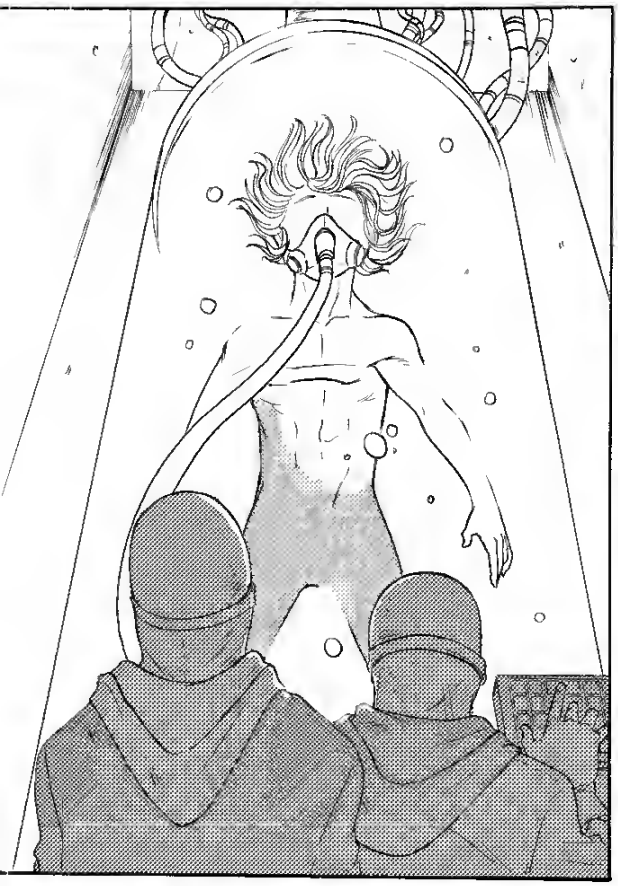


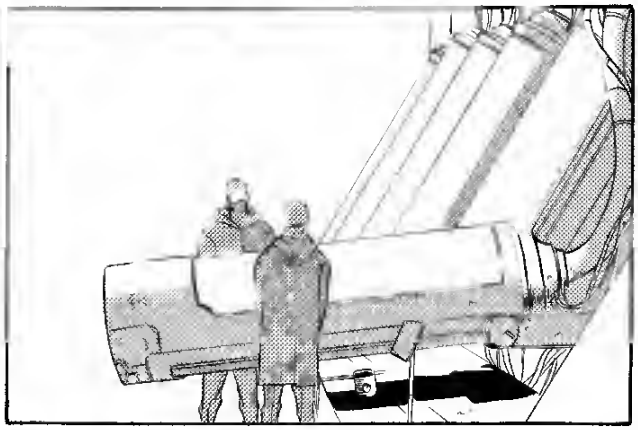


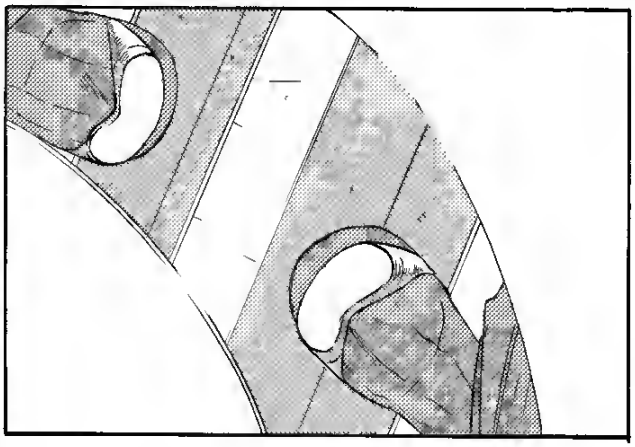


CHAPTER 6: MORE THAN HUMAN





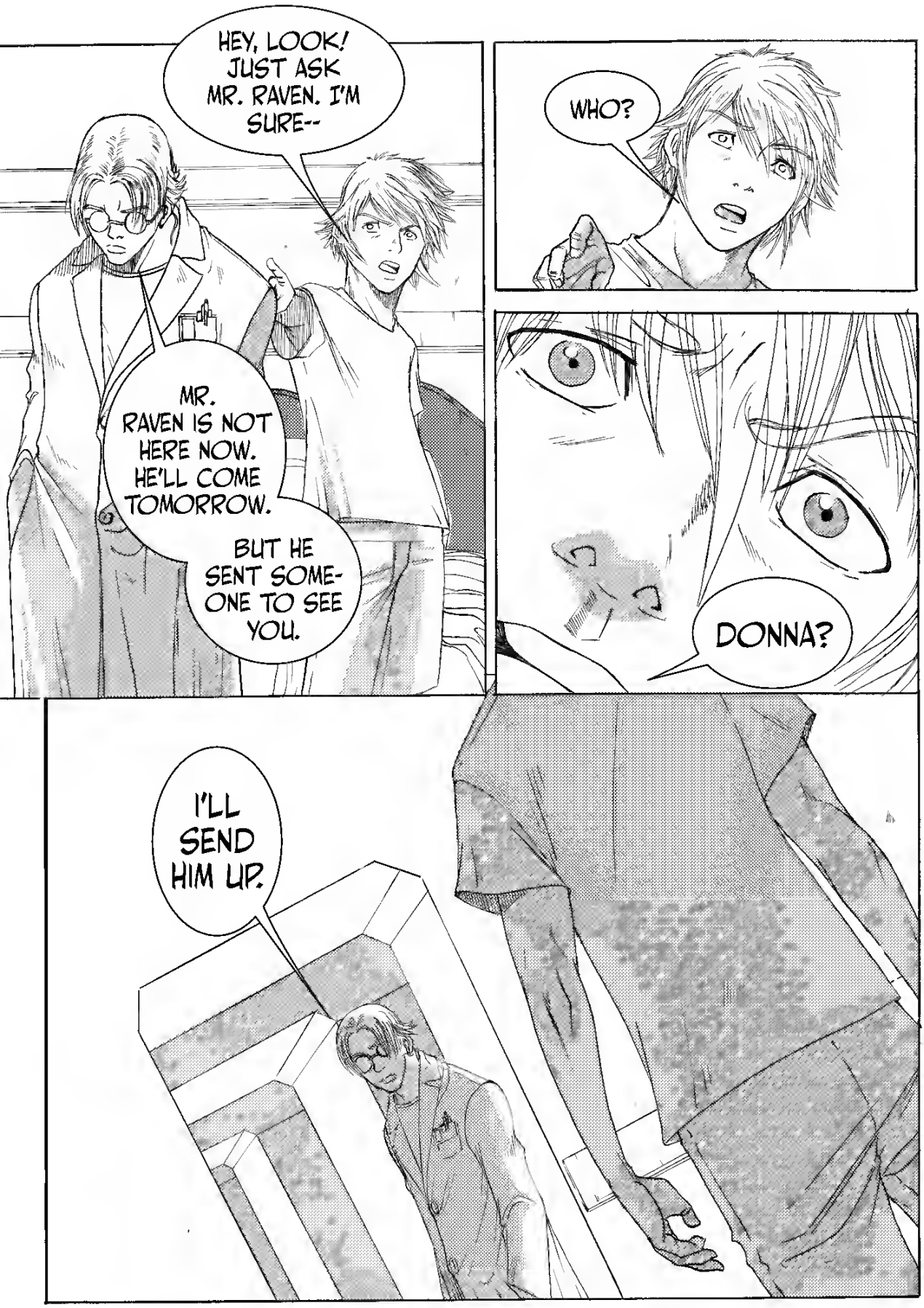


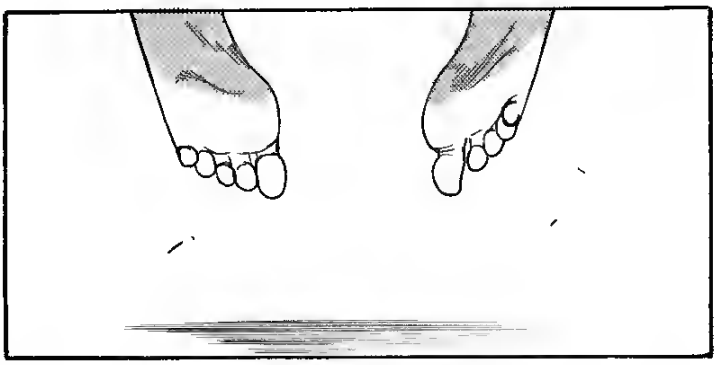


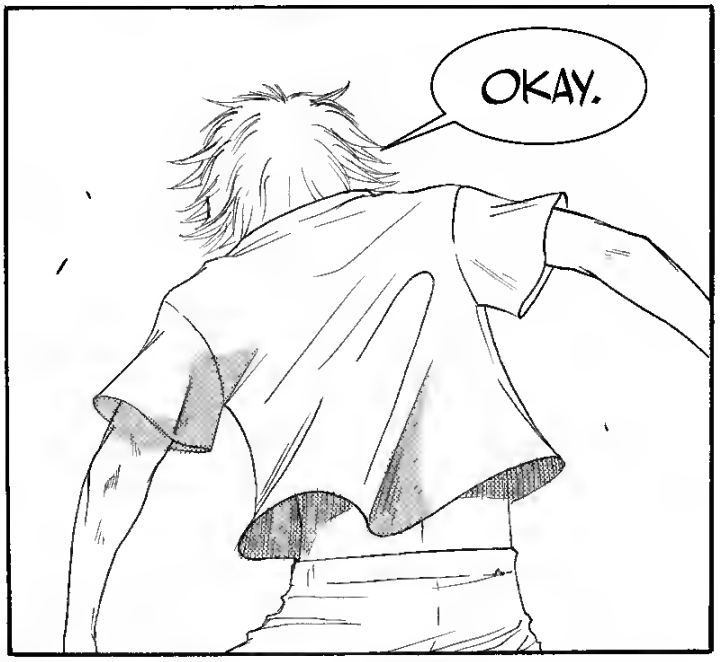
WELCOME BACK, SAM.
WOW. IS THAT IT?
I FEEL GREAT.
SURE. YOU'VE BEEN GETTING THE BEST MED TREATMENT AVAILABLE.
DID YOU FIND A CURE FOR SKAR?
SO... WHEN DO I GET IT?
OH, YES. IT'S DONE.

BUT THAT'S...
...JEEZ. THAT'S HARD TO TAKE IN.
IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN OUT FOR FIVE MINUTES.
HAS IT REALLY BEEN TWO YEARS?
A LITTLE MORE.
CURED. AND YOU'RE STILL PARANORMALLY ABLED. MAYBE ENHANCED.
USING YOUR PARAS WON'T ENDANGER YOUR HEALTH.
YOU WON'T HAVE SIDE EFFECTS.
NICE TAT.
AND I'M CURED?

HUH?
OH. THAT. IT'S NOT--
HOME?
MY PARENTS. MY GIRL-FRIEND. CAN I CALL THEM?
NOT RIGHT NOW.
CAN I CALL HOME?


HEY, LOOK! JUST ASK MR. RAVEN. I'M SURE--
MR. RAVEN IS NOT HERE NOW. HE'LL COME TOMORROW.
BUT HE SENT SOME-ONE TO SEE YOU.
WHO?
DONNA?
I'LL SEND HIM UP.




OKAY.

HELLO, SAM.

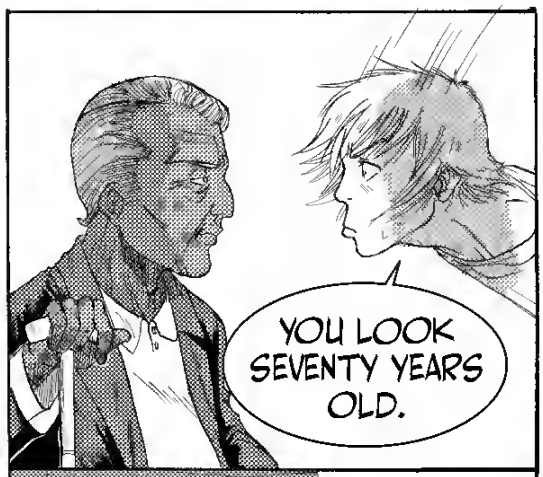
UH. HI.
YOU THE PERSON I'M SUPPOSED TO SPEAK TO?
YES.
SO WHAT'S THE BIG MYSTERY?
SO SAY SOMETHING... YOU'RE MAKING ME NERVOUS.

THEY WANT ME TO TELL YOU. EXPLAIN THINGS.
THEY THINK IT WILL BE EASIER COMING FROM ME.
THING IS...
THE THING IS... I DON'T SEE WHY I SHOULD MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU.
LOOK AT YOU.
EVERYONE FELT SO SORRY FOR YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE GOING TO DIE.
BUT YOU DIDN'T DIE.
YOU'RE YOUNG... HEALTHY...
YOU'RE MORE THAN HEALTHY.

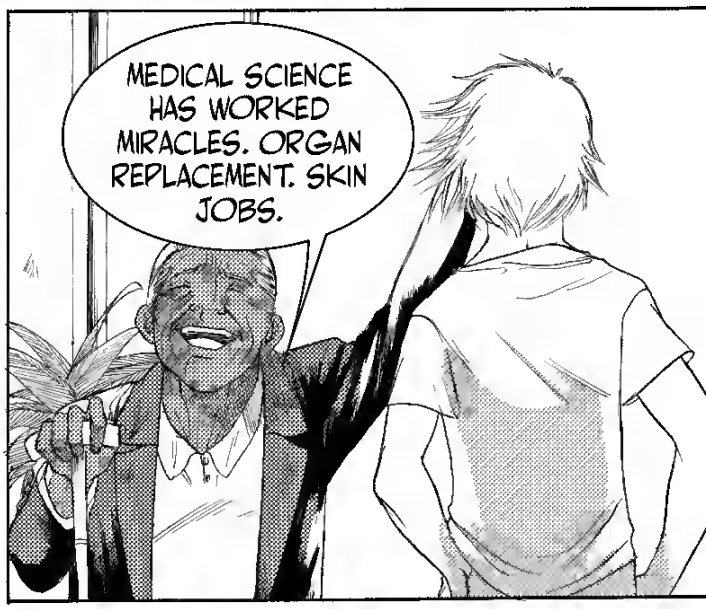
YOU'RE... LIKE A GREEK GOD...
WHAT IS THIS? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
YOU KNOW WHO I AM.
NO. I DON'T.
YES, YOU DO.
Y- YUSUF?

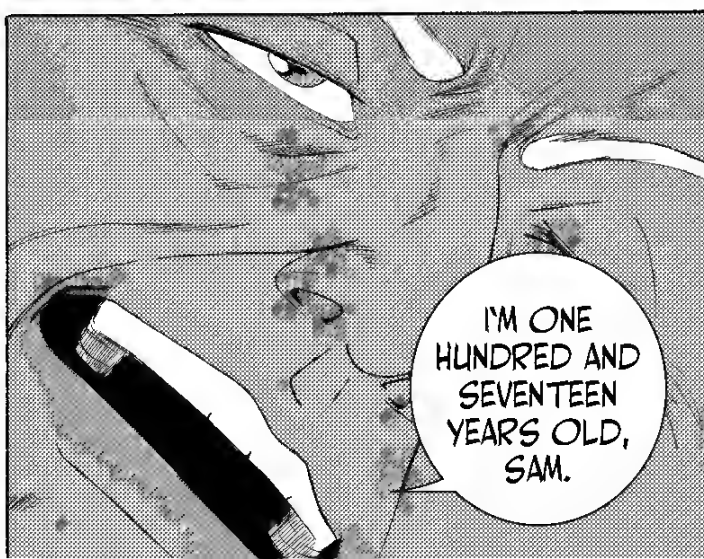
THERE YOU GO.

NO.
NO!
YOU LOOK...


YOU LOOK SEVENTY YEARS OLD.

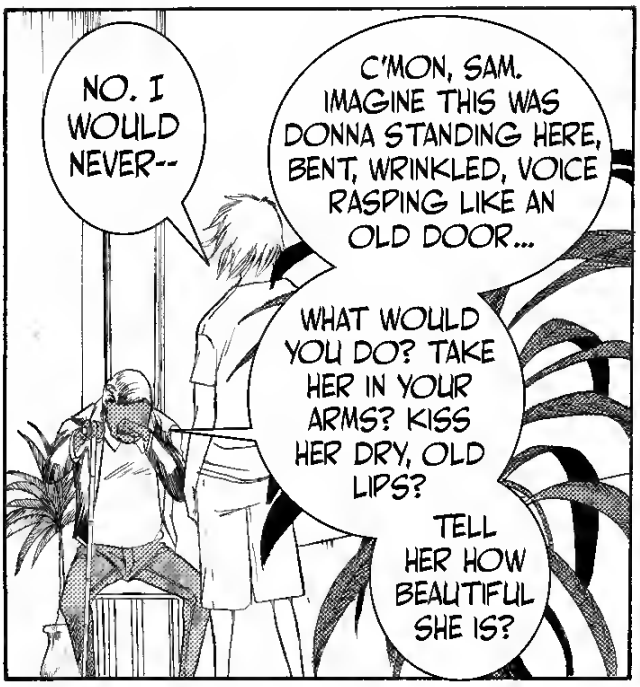
THANKS.


MEDICAL SCIENCE HAS WORKED MIRACLES. ORGAN REPLACEMENT. SKIN JOBS.

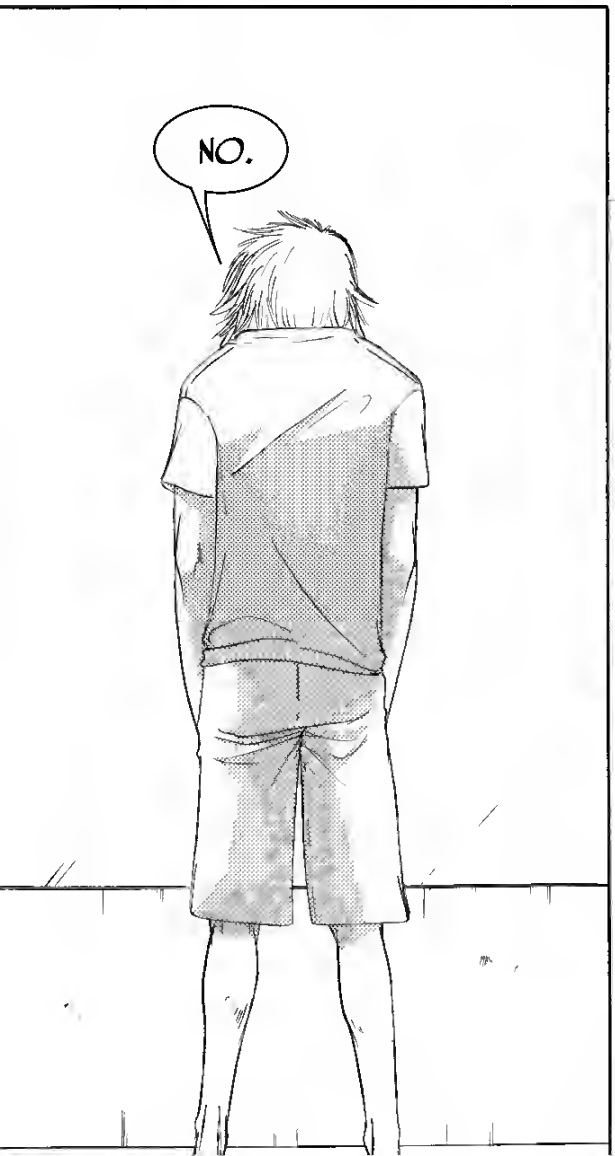

I'M ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD, SAM.

NO. THIS IS--
WHAT? A DREAM?
THERE'S NO DREAMING IN CRYOGENESIS, SAM.
NOTHING'S CHANGED. SOMETHING WOULD HAVE CHANGED.
FEEL YOUR CLOTHES. EVER FELT A FABRIC LIKE THAT?
WHAT ABOUT THE FLOOR? DOESN'T FEEL HOT OR COLD, DOES IT? WITH THE SUN ON IT, IT SHOULD FEEL WARM.
AMBIENT MATERIALS.
EVERYTHING'S CHANGED.

DONNA.
MY PARENTS.
YOUR PARENTS ARE DEAD.
DONNA...
WHAT ABOUT DONNA?
DONNA WAITED FOR YOU.
SHE WAITED UNTIL...
SHE WAS GETTING OLDER, SAM. I GUESS SHE KNEW, EVEN IF YOU CAME BACK, SHE WAS GOING TO LOSE YOU.

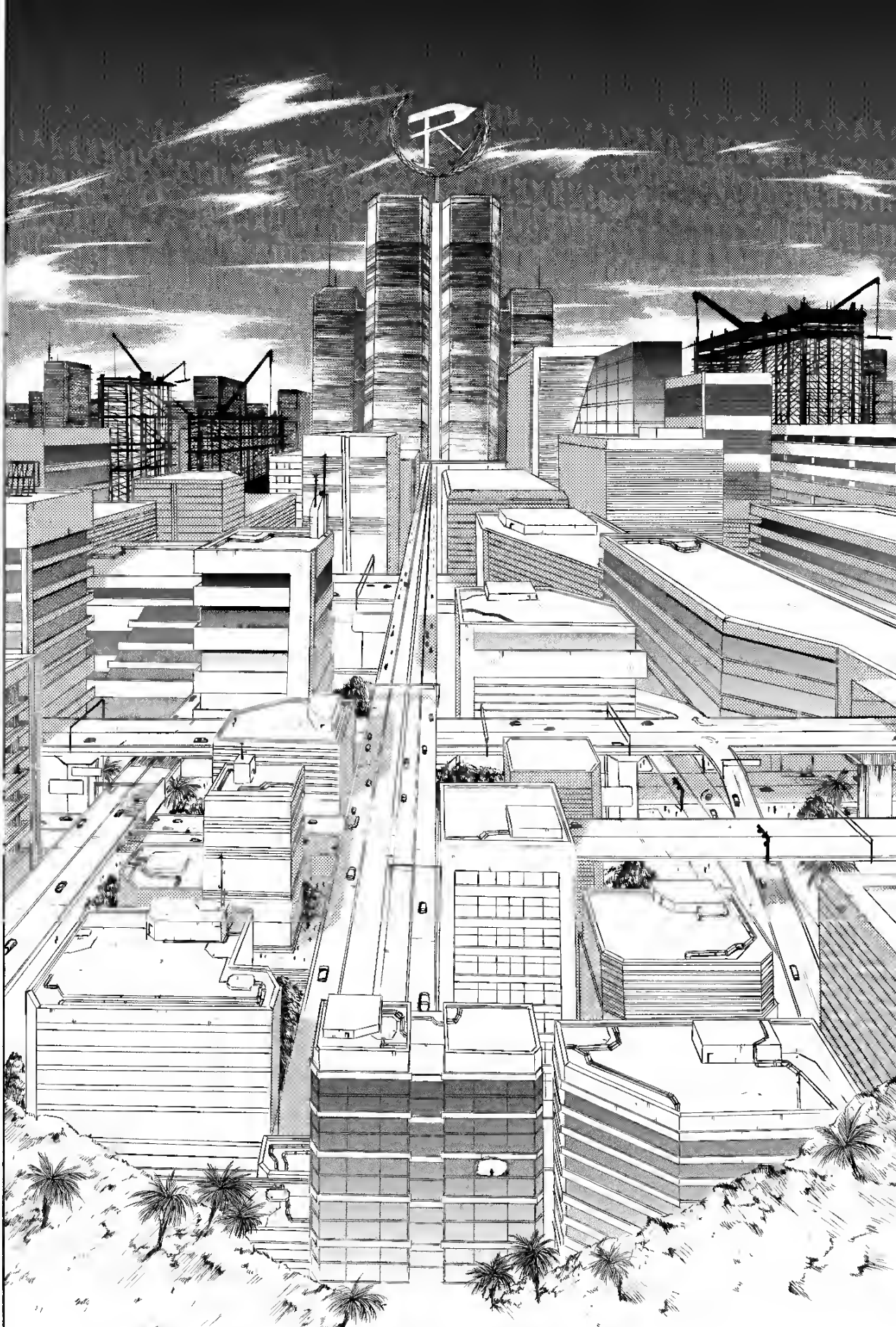

NO. I WOULD NEVER--
C'MON, SAM. IMAGINE THIS WAS DONNA STANDING HERE, BENT, WRINKLED, VOICE RASPING LIKE AN OLD DOOR...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO? TAKE HER IN YOUR ARMS? KISS HER DRY, OLD LIPS?
TELL HER HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE IS?

DONNA KILLED HERSELF A LONG TIME AGO, SAM.


NO.

NO!

NOOOOOO!



CONTINUED IN VOLUME TWO

In the next volume of...

poison candy

毒飴™

A new world, a new life, a new future...but all Sam Chance can think about is the past, a past that has moved along without him. A hundred years in the future, most everyone he knows is dead, and those who aren't will be soon. But Henry Raven is still alive, and the SKAR disease has been cured. This points to a world that may be run by the corporations, for whom an army of orphaned psycho-kinetic, teenage super soldiers may turn out to be a way to maintain power. But teenagers have a penchant for rebellion.

D.R. & QUINCH

K6 NW